



**Msunduzi**  
Municipality

# The news dispatch

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## FEATURED

### EDITOR

NTOBENK MKHIZE

### CONTENT CREATOR

ANELE MAKHANYA  
SIDUDUZIWE MADONDA

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

ANDILE M. MAHLABA  
SASHA RAMCHUND  
THANDEKA DLAMINI  
HLELELWE W. MKHWANAZI

### WRITERS

AMANDA. NGCOBO  
PHUMLA S. MDLETSHI  
NOXOLO J. MAZIBUKO  
SANELISWE MKHIZE

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

NOSIPHO CALUZA

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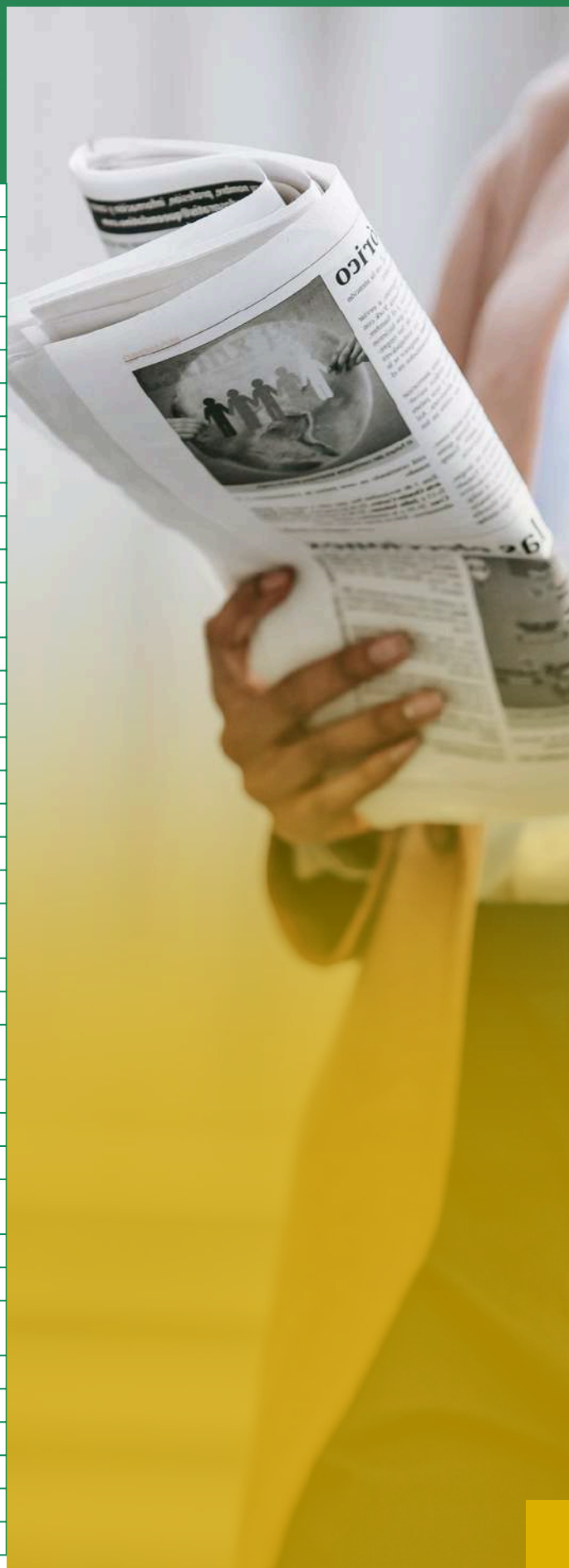
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## Insight from the Mayor: Closing the Month of September and Welcoming October



As we close the month of September and step into October, I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to both the dedicated staff of Msunduzi Municipality and the people of our great city.

September was a month of purpose and pride. Through our Public Service Month activities, we were reminded of the importance of serving our communities with humility, integrity, and accountability. I wish to thank every municipal employee who went above and beyond to deliver services and engage directly with our residents. Your commitment keeps our city moving forward.

To the people of Msunduzi thank you for your continued partnership, patience, and participation in our programmes. Together, we celebrated Heritage Month with pride, showcasing the beauty of our diverse cultures and the unity that defines us as a community. You reminded us that Msunduzi's strength lies in its people resilient, proud, and full of hope.

As we begin October, which marks Transport Month, our focus shifts to promoting safer roads, improving transport infrastructure, and ensuring that our city remains connected and accessible to all. We call on every resident to play their part in promoting road safety and taking care of the infrastructure that serves us all.

Let us move forward into this new month with the same spirit of unity, responsibility, and optimism. Together as one city, one community, and one team we can continue building a Msunduzi that works for everyone.

Yours in service,

*Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla*  
**Mayor – Msunduzi Municipality**

## Strengthening Partnership with the Media

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, was joined by Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, Municipal Manager Mr. S.F. Mndelebe, and other senior officials at a Media Engagement Session held in the Harry Gwala Boardroom.

The session focused on building stronger ties with the media, encouraging transparent communication, and expressing appreciation for the vital role the media plays in keeping the public informed.

"At Msunduzi Municipality, we believe that effective communication is at the heart of good governance. Our relationship with the media is not optional, but essential. While we implement, the media interprets. Today, we want to emphasize the importance of strengthening our partnership with media houses. We are truly grateful for the coverage, transparency, and support you provide. Let us continue to work together," said His Worship, the Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla.

As part of the proceedings, His Worship presented tokens of appreciation to various media houses in recognition of their hard work and dedication. In closing, Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize thanked all attendees for their participation. He further emphasized the importance of building healthy relationships and fostering collaboration based on trust, so that continued effective cooperation may be achieved.





## Deputy Mayor welcomes karate tournament competitors

By Andile Mahlaba

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

Msunduzi Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize was visited at City Hall by Zimbabwean two-time World Kyokushin Karate Champion Shihan Samson Muripo. Muripo was attending the Hanshi A. Sabela Tournament hosted in Durban Umlazi over the weekend in which two of his students participated in the karate tournament in the middle weight and men's open weight.

The middle weight participant was eliminated in the open round while the open weight participant achieved a 4th position finish. The sport of karate is one that the Deputy Mayor holds dear to his heart as a lifelong child of karate. Cllr. Mkhize welcomed the visit and gesture from Shihan Samson Muripo.





## Rapid Response Task Team address water supply challenges

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Noxolo Mazibuko

Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, Speaker Cllr. Eunice Moja, ward councillors, and municipal officials recently visited various wards to assess and address water supply challenges.

The team actively engaged with the Water Department to tackle key issues surrounding reservoirs and illegal connections.

During their visit to Reservoir 18, the team identified illegal direct water connections, which were disrupting access to clean water for other areas. The Municipality and the Water Department worked together to resolve this issue and ensure an uninterrupted water supply.

Ongoing efforts were focused on identifying additional problems and implementing immediate solutions.

In the wards visited, Speaker Cllr. Eunice Moja, as Chairperson of the Rapid Response Task Team, led checks on water reservoirs and raised awareness about the impact of illegal pipe connections.

Residents were urged to stop these unlawful practices, as they disrupted the fair supply of water and created serious challenges for the entire community. The Municipality and the Water Department took steps to remove these illegal connections and ensure water distribution was fair.

Additionally, uMngeni Water announced a reduction in the volume of water supplied to Msunduzi. The Municipality worked closely with the Water Department to ensure this did not negatively impact households, implementing measures to manage resources efficiently and protect residents' access to clean and uninterrupted water.





# The KZN Cycling Training Camp

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Nosipho Caluza



The KZN Cycling Training Camp at Alexandra Park gave young riders a valuable opportunity to gain knowledge and practical skills on the basics of cycling. Experienced coaches guided participants on the basics of safe cycling, and understanding speed.

The camp placed a strong focus on technical development, including posture, balance, bike control, and overall discipline on the road. Safety measures were emphasized to ensure that riders not only enjoy the sport but also ride responsibly.

Msunduzi Municipality continues to invest in youth development, fitness, and creating a culture of safe and responsible cycling within the community.



## Miss Msunduzi auditions

By Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

Photos: Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

The Msunduzi Municipality Youth Office, together with Intsha yoMzansi, successfully hosted the Miss Msunduzi auditions at Bessie Head Library.

The purpose of the event was to bring together young people from various local wards in Msunduzi, keeping them active and engaged in positive activities. It also served as a platform to identify and showcase local talent, offering opportunities for those seeking exposure and growth in the world of pageantry and beyond.

The event was also supported by ICTA, one of our key stakeholders. Thanks to the collective efforts of all involved, the auditions were a great success. We now look forward to the next exciting phase in the journey towards crowning the new Miss Msunduzi.







## Vulindlela Literacy Campaign Boosts Reading Culture

By Samukelo Mbanjwa

Photos: Sasha Ramchund

Area-Based Management (ABM) alongside Msunduzi Library Services and Ward 3 Cllr office, Department of Education celebrated International Literacy Day by donating books to Swelihle Primary School.

The Area-Based Management (ABM) office continues to uplift education through its annual Vulindlela Literacy Campaign. Since 2023, the programme has donated thousands of books to local schools to mark International Literacy Day.

In 2024, 3,000 books went to Dindi Primary School and this year 2,000 books will be donated to Siwele Primary School. ABM has partnered with Msunduzi Library Services to sort and prepare books, ensuring smooth circulation.

ABM officially handed over the Vulindlela community library to Msunduzi Library Services as part of International Literacy Day celebrations. This milestone ensures long-term management of the library and continued access to knowledge for the community.





## ABM Vulindlela Arbour Month Celebration

By Amanda Ngcobo

Photos: Sasha Ramchund

As part of this national initiative, Vulindlela Area-Based Management (ABM) joined hands with the learners of Siwelile Primary School to plant trees within the school premises. This activity not only contributed to the greening of the school but also educated learners on the value of protecting the environment and nurturing a culture of sustainability and to celebrate Arbor Month.

The day was a practical and inspiring lesson for the young learners, as they actively participated in the planting process and gained first-hand experience on how small actions today can lead to long-term environmental benefits.





# War on Waste and Exploring New Opportunities

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Sasha Ramchund

Msunduzi Municipality Area Based Management held a workshop at Copesville Community Hall under the theme "War on Waste and Exploring New Opportunities." Cllr. Madlala welcomed the community and stakeholders, encouraging everyone to reduce illegal dumping, start recycling, and take care of the environment.

The workshop included presentations on climate change, alien plants, water management, and waste management strategies. Speakers highlighted opportunities in recycling, the role of waste pickers, and how people can work together in groups to create small projects that protect nature and create income. Planting trees and supporting farming were also discussed as ways to build a healthy environment.

The session gave the community practical ideas on how to turn waste into opportunities and keep spaces clean. It ended with a call for everyone to recycle more, protect the environment, and work together for a cleaner and greener future.







## Arbor Month initiative at Nhlalakahle, Ward 31

By Amanda Ngcobo

Photos: Sasha Ramchund

Cllr Rooksana Ahmed, in collaboration with Msunduzi Municipality Area-Based Management (ABM) Northern Area and multiple stakeholders including Starke Ayres and Umusa Kubantu Foundation, celebrated Arbor Month through a food security initiative at Nhlalakahle, Ward 31, Northdale.

The purpose of the programme was to raise Arbor Month awareness while promoting sustainable living. To achieve this, a project titled "One Garden, One Home" was launched. This initiative will be introduced in both schools and households, teaching communities the importance of planting vegetables. The aim is to reduce dependence on shops, especially as the cost of living continues to rise, while also encouraging healthier and more affordable lifestyles.

Community members were also empowered with practical gardening tips and basic knowledge on how to successfully start and maintain a vegetable garden. Through this initiative, Arbor Month was celebrated not only by planting trees, but also by planting seeds of food security for the future.







## Grade 9 Subject Choice Programme

By Amanda Ngcobo

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

UMSunduzi Municipality Youth Development Office, Cllr B.E Zuma, together with the Library Special Project Organizing Committee (LSPOC), under Msunduzi Library Services, Zone 3 Area Based Management (ABM) in collaboration with multiple stakeholders including the Department of Education, uMgungundlovu TVET College, Berea College, Department of Social Development, Van Schaik, Eskom, Metropolitan, Cedara College of Agriculture, Health Systems Trust (HST), and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Central Application Office (CAO), EDTAE, hosted a Grade 9 Subject Choice Programme at Unity 14 Community Hall (Ward 41).

The atmosphere was filled with excitement and entertainment as Grade 9 learners from various high schools gathered to learn about subject choices that will shape their academic streams next year. Stakeholders guided the learners on the importance of selecting the right subjects, elaborated on different career paths, and encouraged them to study hard to achieve their goals.

The session was highly informative, giving learners valuable exposure to career options and subject choices they may not have been aware of before.







## 2025 Annual Reed Dance at eMashobeni

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

Msunduzi Municipality held a special send-off ceremony at City Hall to wish the maidens safe travels as they prepare to participate in the 2025 Annual Reed Dance at eMashobeni.

Transportation has been arranged for the maidens, with security personnel accompanying them throughout the journey. Food and refreshments have also been provided to ensure their comfort and wellbeing.

Addressing the maidens, Municipal Manager, Mr. S.F. Mdebele, offered words of encouragement, saying:

"You are carrying the responsibility of representing our culture, a history that continues to shape and guide our young girls. As the faces of this Municipality, you symbolize pride, identity, and the preservation of our heritage. Continue with this valuable journey, uphold these traditions with dignity, and travel safely."

The Municipality is proud of the maidens and remains committed to supporting the preservation of cultural traditions while ensuring the safety and dignity of all participants.



# Unity, generosity, and community spirit were front and centre at this year's Annual Sandile Zuma Charity Run

By Noxolo Mazibuko

Photos: Noxolo Mazibuko

Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize joined hundreds of athletes, business leaders, and residents from across Msunduzi in support of this meaningful cause.

Participants took on two routes: a demanding 19 km race from the Msunduzi Athletics Track Stadium to Edendale Mall, and a more accessible 5 km loop around Edendale Mall — making the event inclusive for all fitness levels.

Ward Cllr Thembinkosi Zondi expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for embracing the spirit of \*ubuntu\*. He applauded the athletes' dedication and commended Sandile Zuma for founding and growing this impactful initiative.

Each year, the event goes beyond the track by collecting food donations to support local families in need — transforming it from just a race into a true lifeline for the community.







## MTN 8 Final at Harry Gwala Stadium: A Day to Remember

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

The MTN 8 Final at Harry Gwala Stadium recently took place, drawing fans and families for an exciting afternoon and evening of action-packed football.

His Worship, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, Madam Speaker Cllr. Eunice Majola, and Municipal Manager Mr. S.F. Mndebele were in attendance at the vibrant Fan Park hosted at the stadium. The atmosphere was nothing short of electric, with high spirits filling the air as supporters eagerly awaited the final whistle.

It was a day filled with thrilling moments as fans cheered for their teams, wondering who would lift the coveted cup. The event showcased the City's commitment to bringing people together and creating unforgettable experiences for the community.





## Disaster Management program

By Thandeka Dlamini

Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa



Msunduzi Municipality's Disaster Management Unit, together with CityHope Disaster Relief, visited the victims of the tragic transport incident that occurred on 11 September 2025, when a scholar transport veered into Sensokuhle Pre-School in Imbali, claiming young lives.

The purpose of this initiative was to conduct a needs analysis for the Pre-School and to provide comfort and support to the affected families as they deal with the painful loss of their children.





# Disaster Management awareness programme

By Amanda Ngcobo

Photos: Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Msunduzi Officials, in partnership with Msunduzi Municipality Disaster Management, the South African Red Cross Society, Eskom, and the Department of Fire and Rescue Services, hosted an awareness programme highlighting the dangers caused by fire and electricity at the Department of Fire and Rescue Services.

Political Office Senior Manager, Mr. S. Zondi, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the stakeholders for being hands-on in supporting the families affected by fire. He also sympathised with the affected families and encouraged community members to contact the fire department immediately in case of emergencies.

The purpose of the programme was to raise awareness about fire safety, electricity risks, and the impact of severe weather. It also encouraged communities to keep emergency numbers at hand to ensure quick response before more damage occurs. In addition, the affected families received small gift items to take home.







## Willowton Group Culinary School Hosts Graduation Ceremony

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

Msunduzi Municipality Library Services, in partnership with Writing Centric Publishers, Iziko Art Company & Publishers, and The Book Behind Awards, celebrated author Nelly Shozana, who has written an incredible 20 books. The celebration was held at the Library Services Auditorium Basement.

The celebration of Nelly Shozana's remarkable achievement was filled with joy and emotion. She began her writing journey in 2017, with her first book titled *Dismissing Excuses*. Since then, she has authored 20 books, in addition to working as a ghostwriter and book reviewer. During the event, Nelly took the audience through her literary journey, painting vivid memories that allowed everyone to picture the depth and beauty of her works.







## Book launch for Dr. Path Mazibuko

*By Noxolo Mazibuko*

*Photos: Sasha Ramchund*

Msunduzi Library Services, in collaboration with MTN, proudly hosted a vibrant book launch for Dr. Path Mazibuko at the Bessie Head Library.

The event brought together readers, community leaders, and literature enthusiasts to celebrate the release of four thought provoking titles:

- Retrenched, Now What?
- Such Is Life
- Izingxoxo Nezincitha Buchopho
- Conversations with the Best: Series 2

Each book reflects Dr. Mazibuko's deep commitment to storytelling that empowers, educates, and uplifts. Msunduzi Library Services is honoured to support and showcase the work of such impactful authors, whose stories inspire reflection, resilience, and dialogue within our communities.





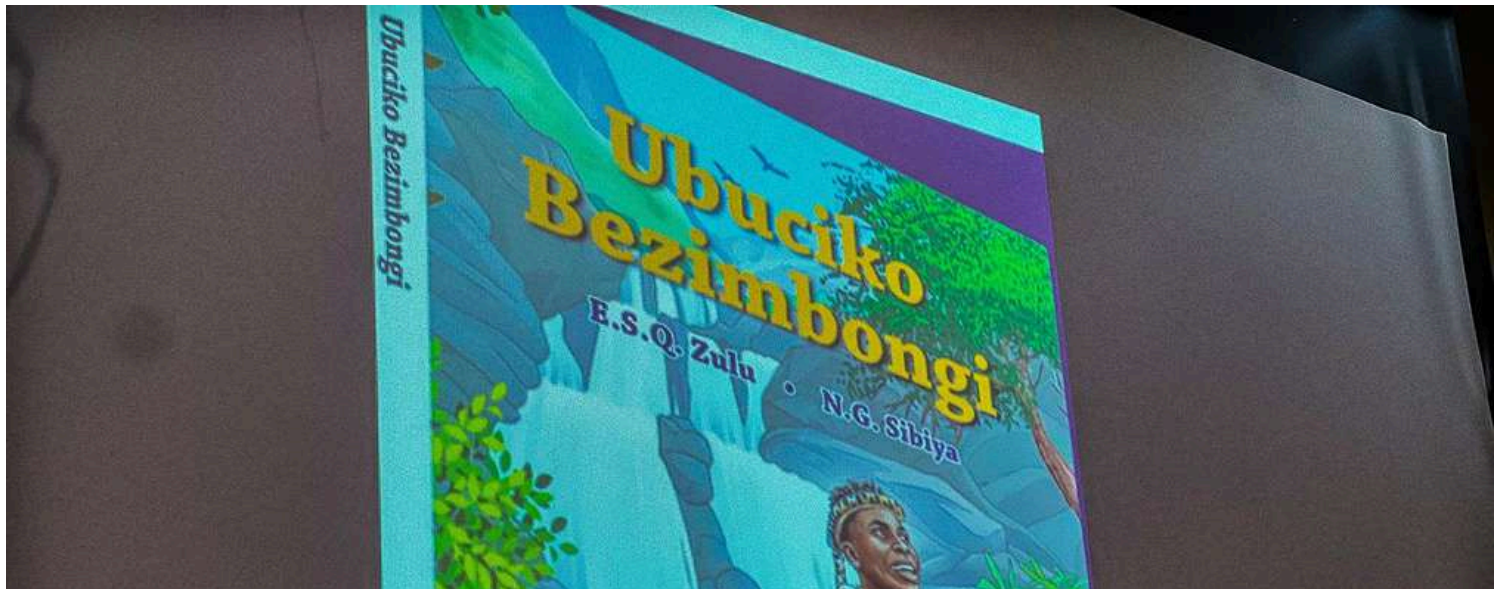
## Book launch for Ubuciko Bezimbongi

By Noxolo Mazibuko

Photos: Noxolo Mazibuko

In celebration of Heritage Month and in honour of our rich literary, linguistic heritage, and the embrace of our indigenous languages.

Msunduzi Municipality Library Services hosted a book launch at the Bessie Head Library for *Ubuciko Bezimbongi*, a work by E.S.Q. Zulu and N.G. Sibiya that celebrates the art of indigenous poetry and storytelling. These authors told what this book offers how it transforms the minds of readers and writers, and embeds lasting value into our culture.





## Literacy month celebration

By **Siduduziwe Madonda**

Photos: **Siduduziwe Madonda**

Writers assembled, pens in hand, imaginations soaring as Literacy Month was celebrated, endorsed by the backbone of library services in KwaZulu-Natal, the KZN Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture. Library services from across the province, authors, and literature enthusiasts gathered to honour the importance of literacy in our communities. The event marked a collective effort to recognize the power of reading and writing.

According to recent statistics compiled by UNESCO, globally, there are 739 million illiterate adults, two-thirds of whom are women. The event served as a reminder of the ongoing work needed to ensure a literate society, and the collective responsibility we all share in addressing this issue.

As the event drew to a close, the call to empower South Africans through literacy continued to echo across the country, reminding everyone of the importance of fostering a literate society every single day. Noxolo Zokhwe from the Head Office: Library Services highlighted the growing role of the digital space within the realm of literature. She spoke about the head office's endorsement of PressReader, a platform that provides access to electronic reading materials, including a variety of e-magazines and e-newsletters.

It was also noted that the Bessie Head Library in Msunduzi Municipality is one of South Africa's legal deposit libraries. The primary goal of a legal deposit is to collect and preserve the country's published cultural and intellectual heritage, ensuring it is available for present and future generations.

As we move forward, let us carry the spirit of reading and writing beyond Literacy Month, nurturing a culture where knowledge empowers and stories bring us together. Together, KZN continues to write its own brighter future.





## Day 2 of Literacy Month Celebration

By Noxolo Mazibuko

Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa

The Literacy Month Celebration continued at Pietermaritzburg City Hall under the theme of promoting a culture of reading and learning. The programme was filled with inspiring messages, poetry, book reviews, entertainment and words of encouragement from authors, film producers and community leaders.

The event highlighted the importance of storytelling, legal deposit, and book fairs in nurturing a love for books and knowledge. Stakeholders including sports, arts and culture, DSAC, ISUKILE, authors, artists, and local organizations came together to empower communities through literacy.

The day concluded with a tour of the Bessie Head Library reinforcing the message that libraries remain powerful gateways to knowledge and growth.





# Special full council meeting in honor of the life of the late PR Councillor Sibongile Mkhize

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

A special full council meeting was held in honor of the life of the late PR Councillor Sibongile Mkhize. Messages of support were shared by members of the different political parties within council.

Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla shared a message of support to fellow councillors and the family of the late Councillor who were in attendance. "As we say goodbye to Cde Cllr. Spongile Mkhize, let us not only mourn her passing but celebrate the incredible legacy she leaves behind. Let us honor her memory by carrying forward her vision, the vision of the Freedom Charter by continuing the work she started, the work of liberating the people of South Africa in all forms of oppression and exploitation", said Mayor Cllr. M Thebolla.







## Public Consultation on Ward Delimitation Process

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

Msunduzi Municipality's Speaker Cllr Eunice Majola, hosted a key consultative meeting at the City Hall's Council Chambers alongside the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB), Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Ward Councillors, Ward Committee members, Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC), and the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC).

The session focused on the draft ward maps in preparation for the 2026 local government elections, giving stakeholders a platform to review, approve, or propose changes to the proposed ward boundaries.





# Special prayer meeting hosted by One Life Church

By Andile Mahlaba

Photos: Andile Mahlaba



Deputy Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality, Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, attended a special prayer meeting hosted by One Life Church in Westgate, where he expressed his gratitude to the Church for their invitation and support in praying for Pietermaritzburg and the leadership of the Municipality. He emphasized the importance of unity, faith, and collaboration in rebuilding the city, acknowledging the significant role of churches and faith-based organizations in restoring hope and moral leadership.

He highlighted progress made under the Msunduzi Municipality's CBD Regeneration Plan, including the revitalization of Church Street (Maritzburg Mall), smart city policy adoption, and expanded service delivery. Achievements include electricity connections, road maintenance, youth programmes, and the construction of the Mkangala Sports Complex.

The Deputy Mayor also addressed persistent challenges such as water shortages, infrastructure theft and vandalism, electricity theft, crime in the city. He stressed that government cannot solve these issues alone, calling for stronger partnerships with churches, businesses, NGOs, and community members to restore order, promote development, and bring hope to the city. Drawing inspiration from the biblical story of Nehemiah, he urged all present to move from prayer to action: "Let us arise and build."

He concluded by thanking One Life Church and the One Life Foundation for their leadership and compassion, reaffirming the vital role of faith communities in rebuilding Pietermaritzburg's moral and social fabric.



# 2025 Midlands Tenpin Bowling Association Banquet and Awards Ceremony

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Nosipho Caluza

Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, accompanied by Cllr N. Sokhela who also serves as Chairperson of Sustainable Development attended the 2025 Midlands Tenpin Bowling Association Banquet and Awards Ceremony.

The Midlands Tenpin Bowling team comprises a diverse and talented group of athletes who have proudly represented the region in various competitions, both nationally and internationally. Their continued success is a source of inspiration and pride for the local sporting community.

The event was proudly supported by local companies, whose contributions made the evening a memorable celebration of sporting excellence. Their commitment to uplifting community sports continues to play a vital role in the success of events like this one.

"Congratulations to all the award recipients. I'm extremely excited to be part of these awards and to continue supporting the team," said the Deputy Mayor. "We are looking forward to accompanying and supporting the team as they head to Johannesburg."







## The Risk Management, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Workshop

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Sanelisiwe Mkhize

The Risk Management, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Workshop took place at City Hall Council Chamber, bringing together Municipal leaders and stakeholders to strengthen ethical governance and accountability in local government. Msunduzi Municipality's Speaker, Cllr Eunice Majola, extended a warm welcome to all stakeholders and leaders, highlighting that the workshop provides a valuable platform to explore strategies for strengthening public trust and promoting sustainable service delivery.

Key areas covered included the fundamentals of risk management and the strategic importance of applying it in local government, highlighting how municipalities can identify risks early and put strategies in place to prevent service disruptions. The session on combating corruption and fraud through investigative support stressed the need for transparency and proper systems to protect municipal resources. The "I Do Right" initiative was introduced as a campaign to promote a culture of honesty and accountability among leaders, while the Code of Ethical Governance was discussed as a guide to strengthen ethical decision-making and leadership practices.

The workshop concluded with a strong commitment to integrate these practices, ensuring municipalities remain well-governed, ethical, and responsive to community needs.





# Leaders Honour Scholar Transport Tragedy Victims

By **Siduduziwe Madonda**

Photos: **Phumla Mdletshe**

Mayor Councillor Mzimkhulu Thebolla welcomed the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Hon. Siboniso Duma, along with District Mayor Councillor Mzi Zuma, at Indishini Sports Field for a media briefing on scholar transport, following recent tragic incidents. After the briefing, a memorial service was held to honour the lives that had been lost.

The Department of Transport and Human Settlements led the memorial service in remembrance of those who lost their lives in scholar transport incidents across KwaZulu-Natal. Mayor of Msunduzi, Councillor Mzimkhulu Thebolla, officially opened the ceremony.

In his address, the Mayor stated:

“The pain we experienced was unprecedented. The tragedies that occurred in Ward 15, Unit 18, were unspeakable. To those who lost their loved ones, and to those who were still caring for the injured, please know that as your leadership, we remained with you throughout this ordeal.

We had to ensure that such occurrences never happened again in our region. This could only be achieved by prioritising safety for both our children and the drivers on our roads. To succeed, it required a collective effort from government—particularly in strengthening infrastructure—together with law enforcement across all spheres and the active participation of the community at large.”





## Heritage Day Celebration

By Noxolo Mazibuko

Photos: Noxolo Mazibuko

Area-Based Management, in partnership with Msunduzi Library Services, Tatham Art Gallery, and the Department of Education, gathered at Imbali Unit 01 to celebrate Heritage Day.

The day was both celebratory and informative, as Area-Based Management branches showcased different cultures, shared their histories, and presented vibrant performances.

The program also highlighted the importance of learning more about customs and traditions, and how they blend into the workplace. In addition, the event emphasized the vital role that art and culture play in strengthening communities.





# Msunduzi Municipality Welcomes New Astron Energy Station in Edendale

*Caption provided*

*Photos: Lungelo Sithole*



Msunduzi Municipality warmly welcomed the opening of the new Astron Energy fuel station on the Edendale route. Every new business that opens in our city strengthens the local economy, creates jobs, and plays a vital role in fighting poverty.

We commend Mr. Khumalo for his vision in creating this development, which has already employed over 98 young graduates and provided space for small businesses to grow. This project is a true example of community empowerment, built by the community for the community.

We also thank Astron Energy for investing in Pietermaritzburg and recognising the promise, resilience, and potential of our city. Developments like this bring real benefits to commuters, families, local entrepreneurs, and the broader Edendale community.







## Job Preparedness and Information Sharing Session

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Msunduzi Municipality Youth Office organized a Job Preparedness and Information Sharing Session at the Councillor's Office in KwaMpumzuza, Ward 1. The programme provided practical guidance by sharing information on how to apply for jobs, useful websites, and Department of Labour application forms, helping participants gain clear direction on accessing opportunities. Cllr. K. Msomi warmly welcomed the community and stakeholders, applauding their collective commitment to youth empowerment and highlighting how initiatives like this foster collaboration, growth, and progress within the community.

Stakeholders including Sasopsbiz Foundation, Measured Ability South Africa (MASA), uMzansi Youth in Business, Msunduzi Skills Centre, and the South African Red Cross Society shared valuable insights and guidance. The session created a space for participants to connect directly with resources, receive career advice, and discover opportunities that can support their personal growth and future success.





# The 2025 SACSSA Athletics Nationals

By Nosipho Caluza

Photos: Andile Mahlaba  
Nosipho Caluza

Pietermaritzburg stood out as a premier tourist destination as SACSSA hosted the 2025 Athletics Nationals. With over 1,200 athletes competing, the City welcomed up to 2,000 visitors daily. Supporters flocked to the iconic Msunduzi Athletics Stadium and spent three days experiencing the best of Pietermaritzburg's hospitality, reaffirming its reputation as the City of Choice.

The event not only highlighted the city's athletic excellence, but also demonstrated its capacity to host world-class events, making it a must-visit destination for both sports enthusiasts and tourists.

The 2025 SACSSA Athletics Nationals concluded on a high note with a vibrant awards ceremony held at the Msunduzi Athletics Stadium. Deputy Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Mkhize honoured the outstanding young athletes who had given their all over three thrilling days of competition.

"Tonight we celebrated more than medals, we celebrated discipline, unity, and the bright future of youth in sport," said Cllr Mkhize.







## Msunduzi and PanSALB Promote Language Inclusivity Through Sign Language Training

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa

A meaningful Basic South African Sign Language training session took place at the Library Auditorium, led by the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB). The session brought together officials and staff from the Msunduzi Municipality in a shared effort to promote multilingualism and inclusivity.

The event began with a warm welcome from the Chairperson of Community Services, Councillor Nokuthula Msimango, who highlighted the importance of the ongoing partnership between PanSALB and the Municipality.

"As a municipality, we were proud to partner with PanSALB in promoting language inclusivity. Welcoming this initiative into our city was a step forward in ensuring that everyone—regardless of how they communicate—is seen, heard, and respected. Together, we were building a more inclusive and united community," said Cllr Msimango.

The training underscored the crucial role of sign language in bridging communication gaps and ensuring that no one is left behind. The Deputy Municipal Manager for Corporate Services also addressed participants, reinforcing the equal value of all twelve official languages:

"We were there to promote multilingualism—to include sign language—and to advocate for respect and recognition of all languages. Language is essential in our working environment. Let's use these tools to equip ourselves so that everyone is included," he said.

Through this initiative, participants gained practical skills that support diversity, improve workplace communication, and advance the Municipality's commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and equality for all.



## Local Economic Development (LED) Forum

By Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

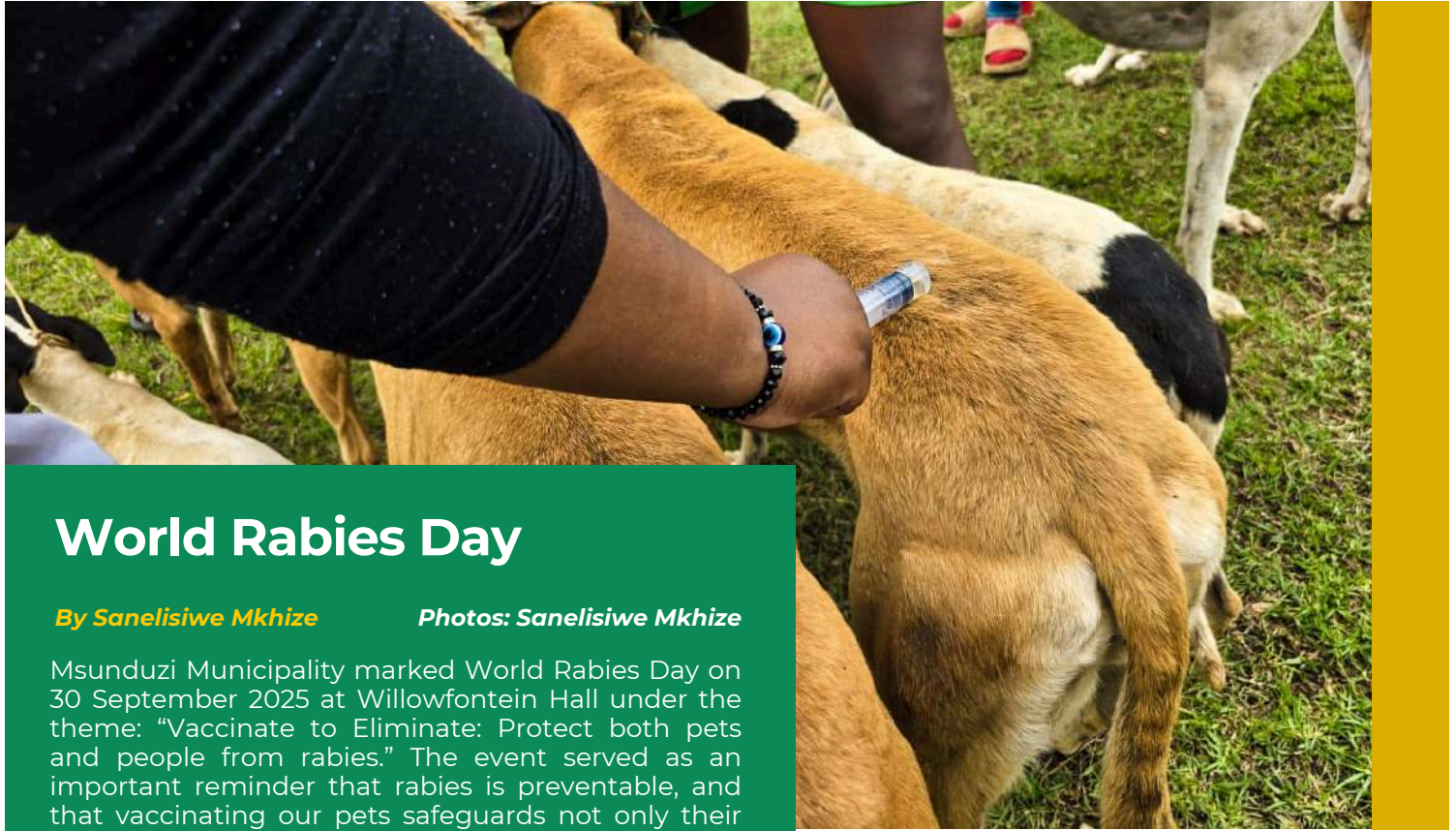
Photos: Thandeka Dlamini

The Msunduzi Municipality hosted the first-quarter Local Economic Development (LED) Forum today at Bessie Head Library. This forum serves as a platform for engagement, bringing together both public and private sectors to discuss economic development across various topics.

The LED Forum focused on strengthening local economies through inclusive agricultural innovation. Participants explored a range of topics related to agricultural practices in both rural and urban areas, discussing how these activities can be effectively implemented in diverse settings and other aim of this forum is to update the database of the agricultural sector.







## World Rabies Day

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Msunduzi Municipality marked World Rabies Day on 30 September 2025 at Willowfontein Hall under the theme: "Vaccinate to Eliminate: Protect both pets and people from rabies." The event served as an important reminder that rabies is preventable, and that vaccinating our pets safeguards not only their health but also the wellbeing of our communities.

Pets are loyal companions, and their health is a shared responsibility. By ensuring they are vaccinated against rabies, we foster safe and healthy environments where humans and animals coexist without the fear of infection. This World Rabies Day highlights that every vaccination counts one simple act of care contributes to healthier pets, safer communities, and a step closer to a rabies-free future.







## A Glorious Start to Transport Month

By Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

Photos: Phumla Mdletshe

Transport Month kicked off on a high note as His Worship, the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, proudly attended the graduation ceremony of the 2024 class of 178 newly recruited traffic officers. The event, hosted by the Department of Transport and led by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, took place at the Msunduzi Athletics Track.

This inspiring milestone signals a strong and committed start to Transport Month, reinforcing our shared dedication to road safety, service excellence, and the development of our communities.

"Today, you're taking on the responsibility to serve and work for the people of KZN. It marks the beginning of a journey to make our province a more beautiful and safer place," said Mayor Thebolla.

Congratulations to all the new traffic officers as they embark on this noble path of public service!





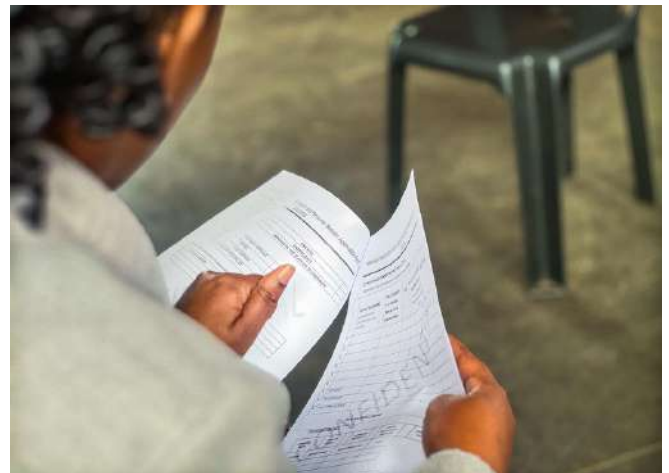
# Indigent Registration Program

By Samukelo Mbanjwa

Photos: Noxolo Mazibuko

The Msunduzi Municipality's Finance Department together with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, hosted an Indigent Registration Program at the community hall in Embali, Ward 15.

This initiative serves as a lifeline for many vulnerable households, ensuring access to essential municipal services for those who are unable to afford them. Beneficiaries include child-headed households, pensioners, and individuals earning below the R6,000 monthly income threshold.





# Operation Qoqimali

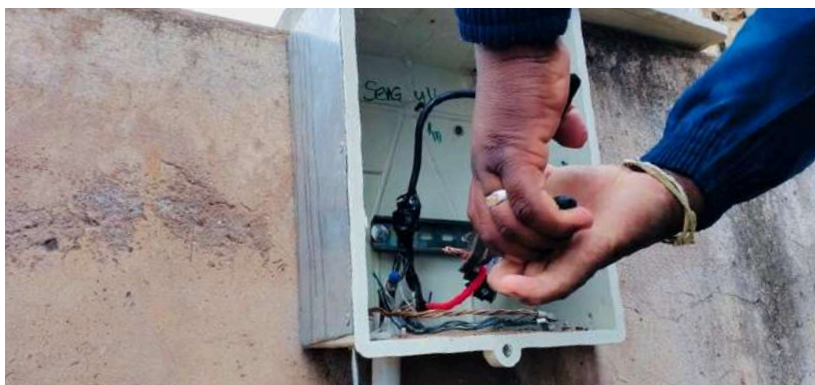
*Captions and Photos by Communications team*

Team Qoqimali, led by CFO Ms. Nelisiwe Ngcobo, continues its vital work across Pietermaritzburg, focusing on recovering outstanding municipal bills. The Electricity and Water Departments are actively engaged in this ongoing operation to ensure the sustainability of essential services, contributing to the smooth functioning and maintenance of the city.

This campaign is being carried out at various locations, including hospitals and private properties, with actions such as water restrictions and disconnections for non-payment. Recently, the team visited DayMed Private Hospital, where an outstanding debt of R1.7 million in unpaid bills was addressed through disconnection and restricted water supply.

The operation has also uncovered illegal direct water connections in certain areas, further highlighting the need for compliance with municipal billing. The municipality continues to encourage all residents, businesses, and institutions to pay their bills on time, reinforcing that timely payments are crucial for sustaining the services that make Pietermaritzburg the #CityOfChoice.

As this ongoing operation progresses, the City remains committed to ensuring that the community continues to receive reliable services. Together, we can keep Pietermaritzburg moving forward.







## Keeping Our City Clean and Safe

By Anele Makhanya

Photos: Provided

Keeping our city clean is a shared responsibility, and our dedicated teams are at the forefront of this mission. Every day, they are out on the ground, sweeping streets, emptying bins, and clearing illegal dumping sites to ensure our communities remain clean, safe, and welcoming.

These tireless teams are not only maintaining cleanliness, but also actively addressing illegal dumping, which is a major challenge for many areas. They are committed to creating a cleaner, healthier environment for all residents, and their efforts are making a significant impact.

In addition to their daily tasks, our teams are also on the ground educating residents about the importance of proper waste disposal. By raising awareness and encouraging responsible waste management, they are helping to build a culture of cleanliness and sustainability in our city. Our waste management teams are the unsung heroes, and together, we can keep Pietermaritzburg clean, beautiful, and safe for all.

