



**Msunduzi  
Municipality**

# the news dispatch

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**EDITORIAL TEAM**

**EDITOR**

NTOBEKO MKHIZE

**CONTENT EDITOR**

ANELE MAKHANYA

**WRITERS**

AMANDA NGCOBO  
PHUMLA S. MDLETSHE  
NOXOLO J. MAZIBUKO  
SANELISWE MKHIZE  
BONGANI A. NYEMBE

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**

ANDILE M. MAHLABA  
SASHA RAMCHUND  
THANDEKA DLAMINI  
HLELELWE W. MKHwanazi  
SAMUKELO MBANJWA

**EMAIL: [COMMUNICATIONS@MSUNDUZI.GOV.ZA](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@MSUNDUZI.GOV.ZA)**

**DESIGN AND LAYOUT**

SASHA RAMCHUND  
NOSIPHO CALUZA

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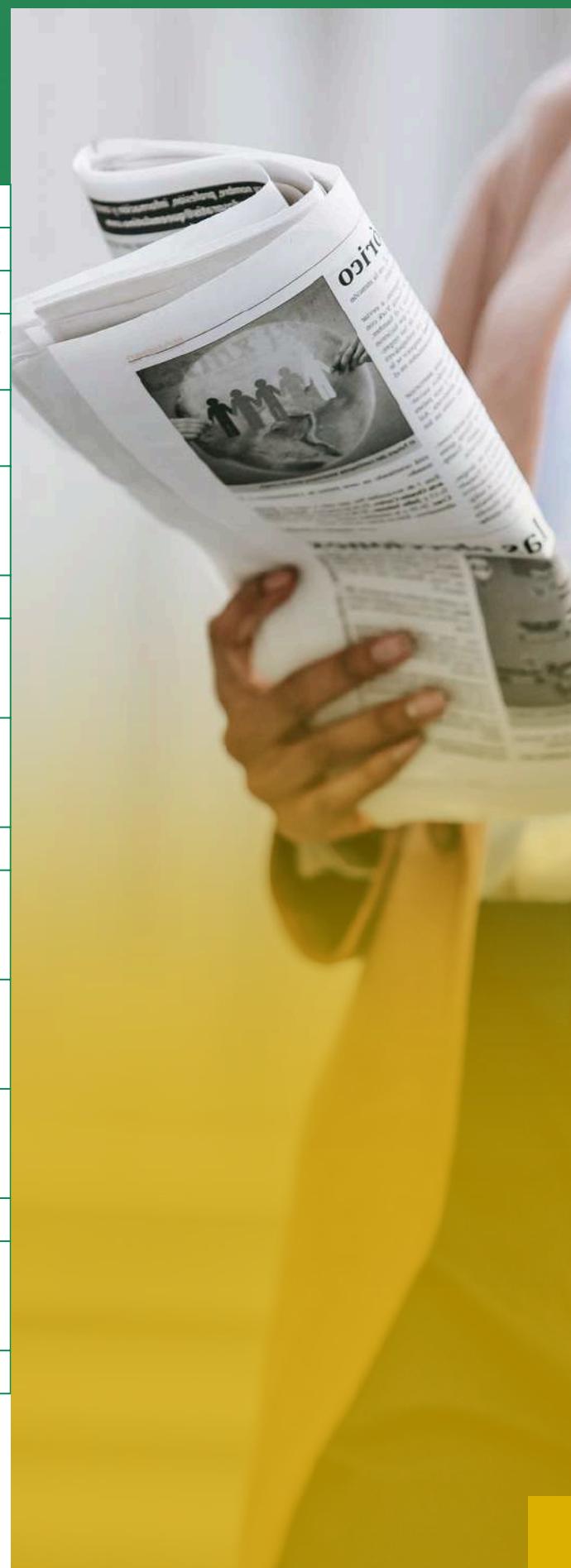
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## Insight from the Mayor: Closing January 2026



As we conclude the first month of 2026, we reflect on a January that has set the tone for the year ahead one focused on service delivery, accountability and community partnership.

The start of the year brought heavy rains and challenging weather conditions across parts of our city. I would like to commend our technical and service delivery teams who have worked tirelessly to respond to electricity outages, water interruptions, infrastructure repairs and ongoing maintenance. Their dedication ensures that essential services continue even under difficult circumstances.

Our Traffic and Public Safety units have maintained strong visibility throughout the month. Ongoing roadblocks and compliance operations are yielding positive results, with improved compliance from motorists in various parts of the city. These efforts are aimed at promoting safer roads and ensuring that all road users adhere to regulations. We will continue intensifying these operations to protect lives and maintain order.

January also marked the return of learners to school and employees to their workplaces. We encouraged residents to exercise caution on the roads, ensure that scholar transport is roadworthy and properly licensed, and remain alert during the rainy season. The safety of our children and all road users remains a priority.

Service delivery remains at the centre of our work. From refuse removal and keeping the city clean, to infrastructure upgrades and daily operational maintenance, the Municipality continues to focus on improving efficiency and responsiveness. We are also strengthening internal systems to enhance revenue collection and ensure financial sustainability, which is critical to accelerating development across our wards.

We continue to call on residents to work with us. Please dispose of waste responsibly, report service delivery issues through the correct municipal channels, and stay informed through our official communication platforms. A clean, safe and well-managed city requires partnership between the Municipality and the community.

As we close January, we remain committed to building a city that works for its people a Msunduzi that is resilient, accountable and forward-looking.

Let us continue the year with focus, discipline and unity of purpose.

Warm regards,  
*Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla*  
**Mayor – Msunduzi Municipality**



## Welcoming the first babies of 2026

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Nosipho Caluza

Welcoming the first babies of 2026 in Msunduzi, the Mayor of Msunduzi, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature Member Ms Sizophila Mkhize, marked the beginning of the new year by visiting Northdale Hospital and Harry Gwala Regional Hospital, formerly known as Edendale Hospital.

During these visits, they shared in the joy of new life by distributing gifts and celebrating the New Year's babies born on 1 January 2026.

This heartwarming initiative, made possible through the support of the Department of Health and local donors, strengthened community bonds by celebrating new beginnings and highlighting the importance of partnership.



# Business Registration Workshop

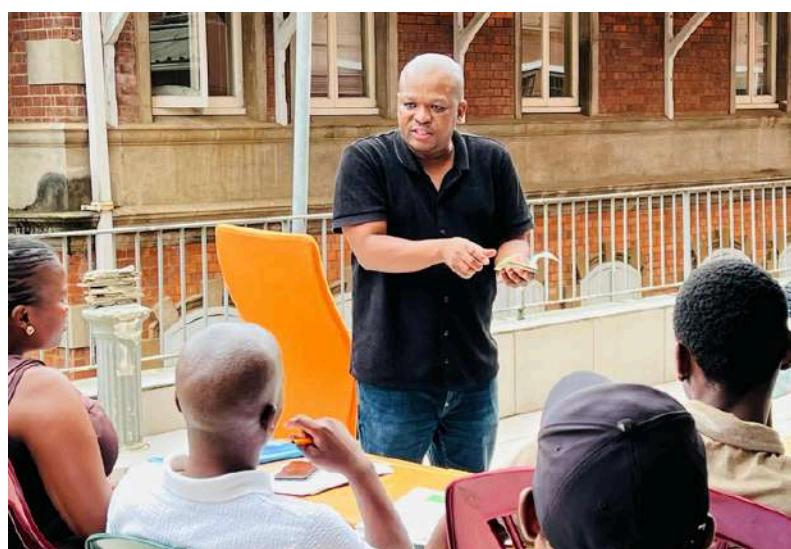
By Hlelwe Mkhwanazi

Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa

Msunduzi Municipality, in partnership with the NDYA, hosted a Business Registration Workshop aimed at supporting and empowering youth entrepreneurs within the Msunduzi area. The workshop was designed to assist young people who are already in business, as well as those aspiring to start businesses, by guiding them through the formal business registration process.

Participants were educated on the importance of registering their businesses, the different types of business entities, and the benefits of operating formally, including access to funding opportunities, compliance with regulations, and increased market access. The session also provided practical support, allowing attendees to receive hands on assistance with registrations and to ask questions related to business development.

This initiative forms part of Msunduzi Municipality's ongoing commitment to youth economic development, entrepreneurship, and job creation, ensuring that young entrepreneurs are equipped with the necessary tools and information to grow sustainable



## Bundles of Hope: Mayor Shares Joy with New Mothers and Newborns

By Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize

Photos: Lungelo Sithole

As part of the Bundles of Hope Programme held today at Harry Gwala Regional Hospital, His Worship, Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla visited the maternity ward to share in the joy of new life and reaffirm the municipality's commitment to caring for its communities.

The Mayor was joined by Dr K.G. Gabela, Senior Manager: Medical Services, Ward 22 Councillor T. Zondi, Ward Committee members, nurses, and hospital staff. During the visit, the mayor distributed gifts to New Year's babies, shared moments of joy with families, and presented a cake and starter gift packs for newborns as a gesture of support to new mothers.

In his remarks, the mayor expressed his deep appreciation to healthcare professionals, acknowledging the critical role they play in building a healthier and more resilient community. He emphasised that the health and well-being of residents remain a top priority, and thanked nurses and hospital staff for their dedication, compassion, and commitment to delivering inclusive healthcare services to all.

The Bundles of Hope Programme reflects the spirit of "Lizalise idinga lakho" a call for collective responsibility, care, and compassion as the municipality continues to stand with families and healthcare workers in nurturing the future of the community.



# Msunduzi Municipality Highlights Maintenance Efforts at Mountain Rise Cemetery

By Anele Makhanya

Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe

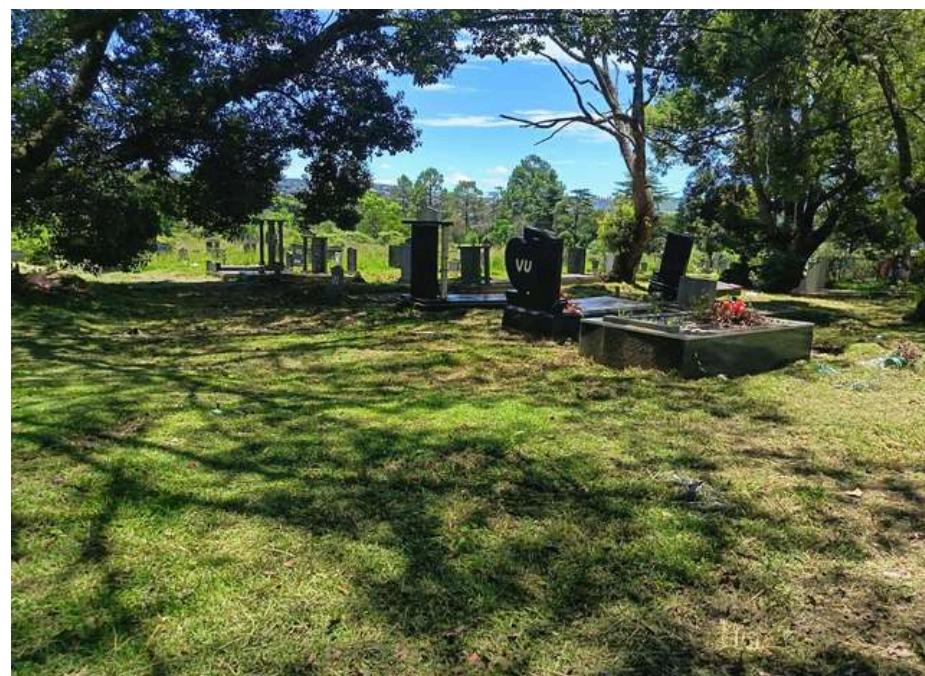
Following his address to senior management at the Municipal Strategic Planning Session, the Executive Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, conducted an oversight visit to Mountain Rise Cemetery to assess progress in the maintenance and upkeep of the facility.

The visit focused on evaluating grass-cutting, litter removal and general clean-up activities, aimed at ensuring that the cemetery remains dignified, accessible and well-maintained for residents visiting the graves of their loved ones.

During the Strategic Planning Session, the Mayor emphasised the need for immediate, consistent and sustained action across all municipal services. He highlighted the importance of regular maintenance of cemeteries, sporting facilities and other public spaces, as well as strengthening safety and security measures to protect community assets.

The Mayor was accompanied by the Acting Deputy Municipal Manager for Community Services, Mr Zondi, who is overseeing the clean-up and maintenance operations at Mountain Rise Cemetery. The Municipality has reaffirmed its commitment to regular maintenance schedules and ongoing monitoring to ensure public spaces remain clean, safe and welcoming.

Residents can expect to see visible improvements in the coming days and are encouraged to report any concerns via the Municipality's Call Centre to support ongoing service delivery.



# Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize Hands Over Building Materials to KwaMadlala Primary School

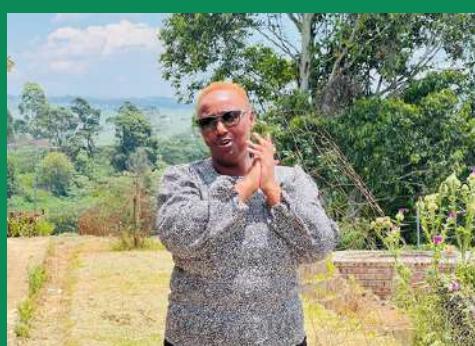
By Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize

Photos: Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize

Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, alongside Mr T. Njilo, handed over building materials to KwaMadlala Primary School in Elandskop, which was severely affected by the heavy rains experienced last year.

Deputy Mayor Mkhize, who is a former learner at the school, said the handover was deeply personal to him, as the school played a significant role in shaping him into the person he is today. He expressed his desire to give back to the institution and community that nurtured him during his formative years.

He further encouraged learners to always remember the importance of giving back to their communities, especially the ones that raised them. The Deputy Mayor also urged learners to take their studies seriously, remain focused, and work hard towards building a better future for themselves.





## Annual Mayoral Back to School Programme

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with Ward Councillor Ram the Department of Education, and sponsors, officially kicked off the annual Mayoral Back to School Programme at Copesville Primary School.

As part of the initiative, full school uniforms and stationery are being handed over to learners to support them during the current academic year. The programme is a great success, made possible by the valuable support of various sponsors and stakeholders who are contributing to making the day meaningful and impactful for the learners.

The Mayoral Back to School Programme team visited Panorama Primary School as the second school for the day, led by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with Ward Councillor Ram, the Department of Education, and programme sponsors. The handover of full school uniforms and stationery reflects the commitment of the Mayor and sponsors to support learners by easing the financial burden on families and creating a conducive learning environment. The initiative has yielded positive outcomes, largely due to the continued support and collaboration of sponsors and stakeholders whose contributions were instrumental in ensuring the success of the programme and enhancing the educational experience of the learners.

The Programme reached its fifth and final stop at Northdale Primary School, marking the conclusion of Today's outreach programme. The visit is led by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with the Ward Councillor, Ahmed, representatives from the Department of Education, and programme sponsors. The occasion was further made special as Northdale Primary School celebrated its 49th birthday, adding significance to the day's activities. The day focused on donations aimed at the betterment of children through education, reinforcing a shared commitment to supporting learners and creating an enabling environment for teaching and learning. Through these contributions, the programme continues to play a meaningful role in addressing learners' needs and strengthening educational development within the community.

Mayor Thebolla emphasised the importance of investing in young people, stating, "Education remains the foundation of a better future. Through this programme, we are investing directly in our children and ensuring they have the support they need to succeed."





## Deputy Mayor Supports Education Through Stationery Handover at Sunlit Gardens Children's Home

By Noxolo Maxibuko

Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, in partnership with the Elandskop Innovation Centre and alongside Cllr Shameel Ally, handed over stationery to learners at Sunlit Gardens Children's Home in Northdale, supporting education and helping children start the school year prepared.

The initiative brought smiles and joy while reinforcing the importance of investing in our children's future, supporting education and helping children start the school year prepared. The initiative brought smiles and joy while reinforcing the importance of investing in our children's future. The visit also served as a reminder that when communities and local government work together, they can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children by creating opportunities for learning, growth, and hope.





## Deputy Mayor Champions Learner Support Programme to Empower Disadvantaged Learners in KwaMadlala Parish

**Captions and Photos provided**

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, in partnership with the Elandskop Innovation Centre, St Immaculate Church, supported education through a meaningful learner support programme in KwaMadlala Parish. An amount of R5 000 per child was handed over to two learners who performed well academically but come from disadvantaged backgrounds, following identification by the church committee.

The engagement was attended by the Ward 7 Branch leadership and coincided with the church's awards ceremony, where certificates were presented to 12 learners from the parish who achieved excellent academic results.

"Education remains one of the most powerful tools to change lives. As leadership, we have a responsibility to support learners who show commitment and potential, especially those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. When government, communities and faith-based institutions work together, we create real opportunities and a brighter future for our children," said Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize.

This initiative highlights the importance of collaboration between local government, community structures and faith-based organisations in uplifting learners, restoring dignity and ensuring that no child is left behind.



## Back-to-School Programme

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe

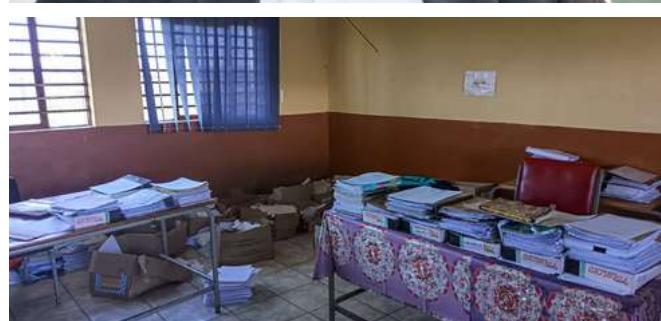
The Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla joined the Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Hon. Ms P. S. Mgcinia, together with various stakeholders, to Bheki Xhimba High School during the ongoing Back-to-School visit.

The programme is directed by the Speaker, Cllr Eunice Majola, and is attended by the Ward Councillor Mbanjwa, the Deputy Mayor of uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Cllr Sbongile Dlamini, and Mr Themba Njilo from the iThemba Njilo Foundation. The presence of Branch Leadership and School Leadership further demonstrates a collective commitment to education.

The visit focuses on assessing the overall condition of the school, engaging with school management, educators, learners, and the broader school community, and identifying key areas where support and intervention are required to enhance the learning environment and improve educational outcomes.

In his remarks, the Mayor expresses sincere appreciation to the Deputy Minister for participating in the Back-to-School programme and for her continued support of education initiatives. He emphasizes that the municipality's objective in adopting schools is to contribute meaningfully to the development of learners, strengthen the functionality of schools, and create a conducive environment that supports quality teaching and learning.

"We are honoured to welcome the Deputy Minister to Bheki Xhimba High School as part of our Back-to-School programme. This visit reflects our shared commitment to ensuring that our schools are functional, supportive, and conducive to quality teaching and learning. As a municipality, we remain dedicated to adopting and supporting schools in a meaningful way, because investing in education is an investment in the future of our learners and our communities."



# Msunduzi Municipality Welcomes Sports Equipment Handover to Promote Healthy Lifestyles and Community Sport

By Thandeka Dlamini

Photos: Hlelewe Mkhwanazi

Msunduzi Municipality Mr. Sandile Zondi, Senior Manager at the Political Office welcomed the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture for its generous handover of sports equipment to local cricket and netball clubs.

The main goal of this program is to promote the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and to encourage community members to actively participate in aerobics and other sporting activities. This initiative will benefit all Msunduzi Aerobics Fitness Clubs and sports federations, ensuring that they have the necessary resources to further develop their programs and nurture talent across the municipality.

Senior manager expressed his sincere gratitude to the Department for their significant contribution in encouraging all sports clubs within Msunduzi to engage in active participation





## Msunduzi Municipality Welcomes Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Transport for IPTN Oversight Visit

By Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize

Photos: Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

The Mayor of Msunduzi Local Municipality, Councillor Mzimkhulu Thebolla, today led a municipal delegation in welcoming the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Transport as part of its oversight visit to KwaZulu-Natal. The engagement formed part of the committee's week-long programme to assess the status of transport and infrastructure projects in the province, with a specific focus on the Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) and the Public Transport Network Grant (PTNG).

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an up-to-date briefing on the current status of the Msunduzi IPTN, with particular emphasis on the allocation and expenditure of the PTNG. The briefing aimed to ensure transparency in project implementation, promote accountability in the use of public funds, and facilitate open dialogue on progress made, challenges encountered, and the way forward.

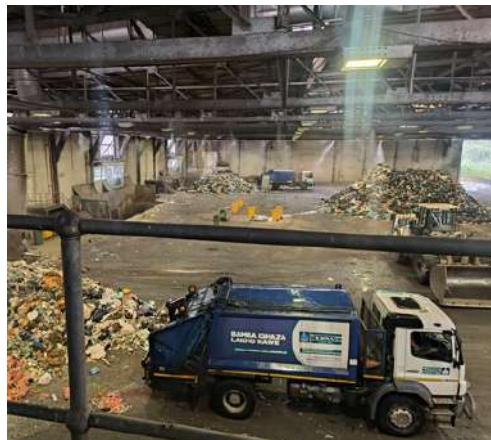
Discussions further focused on strengthening partnerships between all stakeholders, addressing outstanding concerns, and reaffirming a shared commitment to delivering a modern, efficient and inclusive public transport system for the residents of Msunduzi.

Following the engagement, the delegation undertook a site visit, enabling the committee to assess conditions on the ground and observe transport infrastructure progress. The Municipality welcomed the oversight visit and reiterated its commitment to working collaboratively with national and provincial government to advance the implementation of the IPTN project and outline clear next steps towards its full rollout.



# Waste-to-Energy Plant Project site visit at eThekweni Municipality Gas-to-Energy Project, Bisasar Landfill Site

**Captions and Photos provided**



The Munduzi Municipality's New England Landfill Site has been operational for the past 25 years servicing residents, businesses and neighboring Municipalities. The landfill operates within the prescripts of the Waste Management License, which is coming to an end in 2027, and its lifespan is slowly diminishing. In efforts to ensure longevity of the site, the Waste Management Department has commenced with proposals that aim to reduce waste to landfills such as the Waste-to-Energy program in collaboration with the Development Service Department. The departments submitted a business plan to National Treasury in 2022 for The Waste-to-Energy project- Pre-feasibility and Feasibility study, which was approved. The main purpose of the Pre-Feasibility and Feasibility Studies is to explore alternative waste management strategies, including the development of a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Plant.

To this end, the municipal appointed service provider has concluded with the pre-feasibility study and the feasibility is currently underway. To benchmark these potential technologies, the WTE and Project Steering Committee conducted a successful site visit to eThekweni Municipality's Bisasar Landfill Gas-to-Energy Project on 30 October 2025. This site was identified because of its successful operation and for information sharing which would assist the municipality better plan for such plant, in the event that it is feasible to undertake the project.

The benchmarking exercise was highly beneficial for all parties involved, as officials from the eThekweni Municipality's Waste Department shared valuable insights into the successes and challenges of their Gas-to-Energy Project. They provided a comprehensive walkthrough of the processes and machinery involved - from the time point at which general waste enters the transfer stations, to its final stage at the power plant where gas is generated from the waste.

# Operation iLima in Action at Imbali Taxi Rank

By Bongani A. Nyembe

Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa

Operation iLima continued across the city as an integrated service delivery programme, with Imbali Taxi Rank attended to as part of the initiative. On the first day, multidisciplinary teams were on the ground working collectively to restore cleanliness, order, and safety in the area.

The programme brought together Traffic Services, Security, Fire Services, Street Sweeping, Illegal Dumping Removal, Street Trading Management, Business Licensing, Roads Maintenance, and Road Markings. Work commenced with a comprehensive clean-up of the area, while simultaneously addressing compliance, safety, and infrastructure needs.

The intervention aimed to leave Imbali Taxi Rank in a clean, organised, and well-maintained condition for business owners, the general public, and the surrounding community. Msunduzi Municipality reaffirmed its commitment to visible service delivery and the improvement of public spaces across the city.

As the programme continued, the Acting General Manager of Community Services, Mr Zondi, led the iLima service delivery project, building on the previous day's work. Teams continued the citywide clean-up, focusing on the areas surrounding the Imbali Taxi Rank.

Activities included clearing litter, sweeping streets, removing waste, and unblocking drains to improve hygiene and prevent flooding. Msunduzi Municipality reiterated its commitment to keeping Pietermaritzburg clean, safe, and welcoming, and encouraged residents to report illegal dumping or any prohibited activities, emphasising that the city belongs to all and that its infrastructure must be protected.



# January Traffic Safety Campaigns: Strengthening Road Safety Through Joint Operations

By Anele Makhanya

Photos: Lungelo Sithole

During the month of January, traffic authorities intensified road safety campaigns aimed at promoting responsible driving and reducing road crashes, particularly during the festive season return period and the reopening of schools.

These campaigns formed part of a broader road safety strategy focused on saving lives and ensuring safer roads for all road users.

The municipality participated in joint operations alongside relevant law enforcement agencies and stakeholders to strengthen visibility and coordination on major routes and identified high-risk areas. These operations included roadblocks, vehicle checkpoints, and regular patrols, focusing on enforcing compliance with traffic laws such as speed limits, seatbelt use, vehicle roadworthiness, and preventing driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Public transport vehicles were also inspected to ensure passenger safety and adherence to legal requirements.

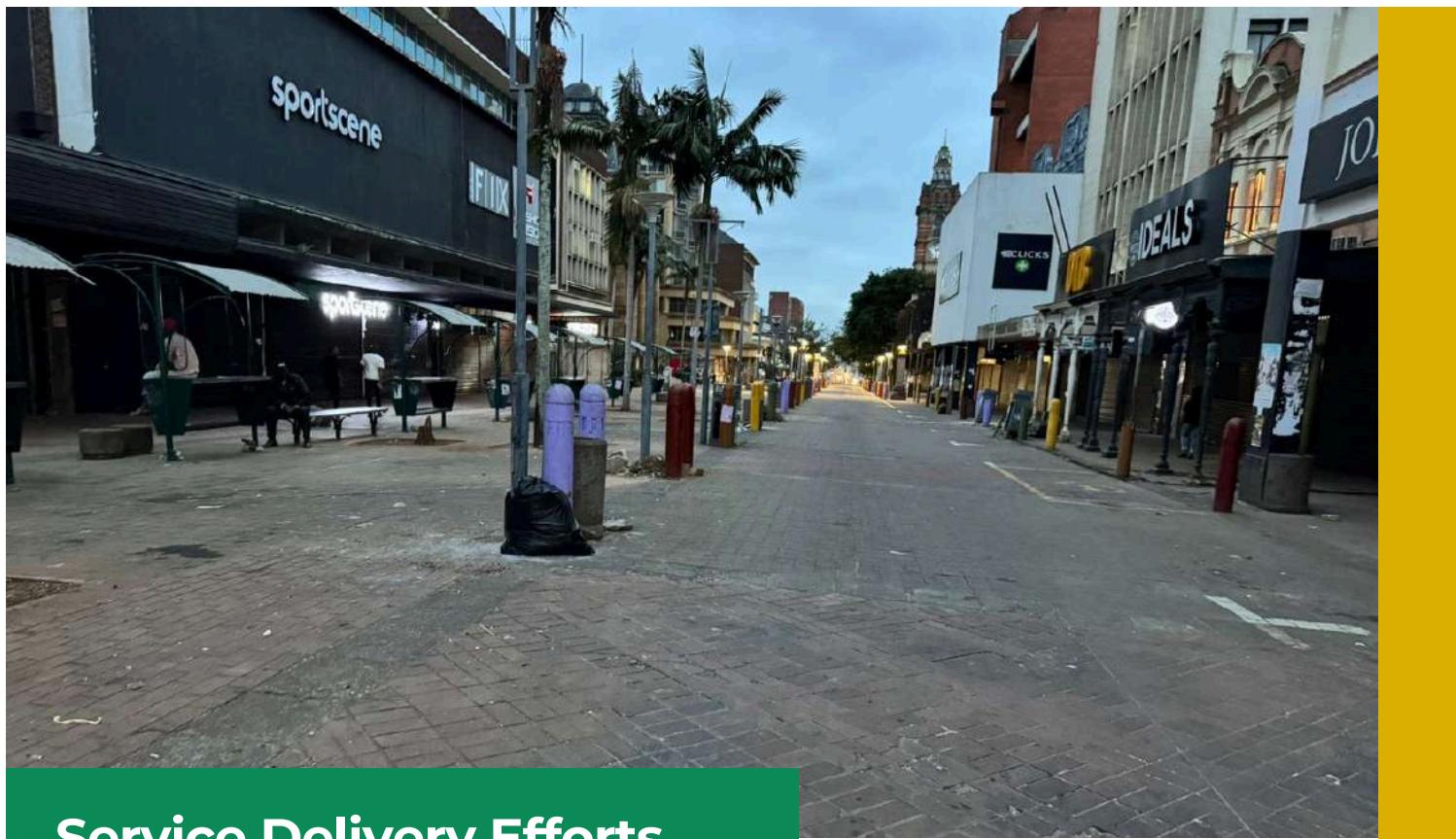
Furthermore, the municipality heeded a call from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, which initiated the "Nenzani La Ezweni – Zero Tolerance" traffic safety campaign. This campaign reinforced a firm stance against reckless and negligent driving, emphasizing zero tolerance for lawlessness on the roads and encouraging all road users to take responsibility for their actions.

In addition to enforcement, traffic officials conducted road safety education and awareness programmes, engaging motorists and pedestrians on responsible road use. Special focus was placed on learner safety as schools reopened, with campaigns conducted near schools, residential areas, and pedestrian crossings.

The January traffic campaigns yielded positive results, contributing to improved compliance and heightened awareness of road safety responsibilities.

Traffic authorities remain committed to continuing joint operations and zero-tolerance enforcement throughout the year to reduce accidents, save lives, and ensure safer roads for all.





## Service Delivery Efforts

