



**Msunduzi**  
Municipality

# The news dispatch

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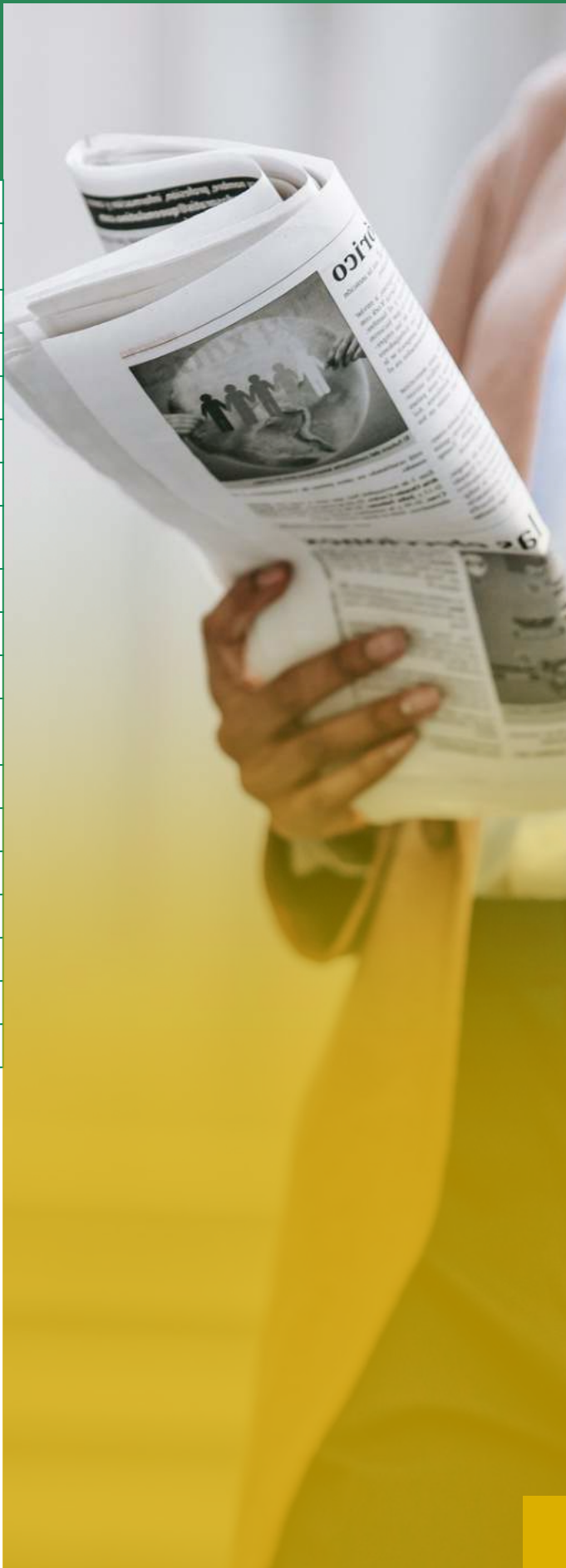
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## Insight from the Mayor - A New Chapter of Leadership, Service, and Social Responsibility



The appointment of Mr. Simon Felani Mndebele as the Municipal Manager of Msunduzi Municipality signals a new chapter for our city one of renewed energy, focused leadership, and a deepened commitment to service delivery. As Mayor, I am proud to welcome Mr. Mndebele to the helm of our administration during what we have declared the Year of Massive Service Delivery.

Mr. Mndebele brings extensive experience and a firm understanding of the challenges and responsibilities before us. His prior role as a Technical Support Expert under KwaZulu-Natal COGTA has already given him valuable insight into our systems, and his leadership promises to provide the stability and strategic focus needed to drive real change for the people of Msunduzi.

As we welcome him into this crucial role, we must also extend heartfelt appreciation to our Chief Financial Officer, Mrs. Nelisiwe Ngcobo, who served with dedication and excellence as Acting Municipal Manager. Her leadership over this transitional period ensured that our operations remained on course and that the business of service delivery never faltered.

Over the past month, the Municipality also successfully commemorated Mandela Day, working with communities and stakeholders to deliver meaningful outreach initiatives from cleanup campaigns and support for the vulnerable, to restoring dignity in under-resourced areas. These activities reflected our commitment to ethical, people-first governance in line with Madiba's values.

As July draws to a close, we reflect on Men's Month and the responsibility it places on men to play a positive role in society. While the spotlight may shift with the calendar, the values we call for respect, accountability, non-violence, and support for women and children must continue throughout the year. I urge all men to be champions for equality, protectors of dignity, and active voices in the fight against gender-based violence.

Looking ahead, we now usher in Women's Month, a time to celebrate and honour the contributions, resilience, and leadership of women in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Msunduzi Municipality remains committed to advancing gender equity, empowering women in leadership, and ensuring that our programmes are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all.

As we move forward, guided by a capable administration and driven by the urgent call for improved service delivery, we reaffirm our commitment to building a city that works efficiently, ethically, and in service of every resident.

Let us walk this journey together united in purpose and grounded in action.

*Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla*  
Mayor – Msunduzi Municipality



## Honouring Madiba's legacy through 67 minutes of meaningful action

In commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day, Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, and officials from the Msunduzi Municipality came together to honour Madiba's legacy through 67 minutes of meaningful action.

The team dedicated their time to revitalising Church Street at the Maritzburg Mall precinct, painting bollards and road markings in vibrant colours as a symbol of unity and renewal. This initiative formed part of the broader Operational Ilima Cleaning Campaign, aimed at restoring and maintaining cleanliness in the Central Business District (CBD) over a period of two to three months.

"Today, we did this in the name of Nelson Mandela — giving back to our people and taking pride in a cleaner, more beautiful city," said Mayor Thebolla.





## Youth Rehabilitation Efforts in KwaShange

As part of International Mandela Day celebrations, Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize along with Ward 4 Councillor Cllr. M. Zondi attended a program in KwaShange Hall aimed at rehabilitating 15 young boys who were drug addicted and identified as part of the Ward 4 Ward Room. These boys were identified by local shop owner Mr. Bantu Shange who was then able work with the local councillor of ward 4 to put the matter forward to the War Room.

The Ward Task Team( WTT) at whose helm is Msunduzi's Area-Based Management (ABM), community organisations, government departments, and civil society met frequently to address the matter. This year ABM roped in HIV-AIDS sub-unit and Inkuzisematholeni NPO to assess the boys and provide a detox programme for them to get off the drugs to eventually reintegrate them into their local community of Ward 4.

As part of International Mandela Day, was the culmination of this programme where clothing items were handed over to the boys and testimonials from parents and local members of the community provided evidence that through these interventions, the crime rate stopped drastically in the KwaShange area.







## Mandela Day Brings Transformation to Kwashange Primary

As part of International Mandela Day celebrations, Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize partnered with UNISA to donate 90 desks and chairs to Kwashange Primary as well as to paint the school. The Deputy Mayor was also joined by Ward 4 Councillor Cllr. M. Zondi to do work around the school. This is a long running initiative to identify disadvantaged schools to provide the necessary assistance and support so that learners can have the best foundation to excel academically.





## Amashova National Classic

On Sunday morning, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, officially launched the 39th edition of the Amashova National Classic road cycle race outside City Hall.

The Mayor extended his best wishes to all participating cyclists, wishing them a successful, safe, and prosperous race as they took on one of South Africa's premier road cycling events.





## Aquaculture Awareness Takes Root in Sweetwaters

Ward 40 Cllr Ngubo and Inkosi KS Zondi welcomed Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Hon. Narend Singh, to an aquaculture awareness event hosted under the Virtual State Programme.

In partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Msunduzi's Area-Based Management (Sweetwaters), and other stakeholders, the event aimed to spark interest in aquaculture among youth and the wider community.

The programme highlighted career opportunities in the sector and featured presentations on indigenous knowledge of local plants and herbs.







## Aviation Career Day

Fuze Aviation Academy, in collaboration with Pietermaritzburg Airport, hosted a successful Aviation Career Day aimed at inspiring the next generation of aviation professionals. The event was graced by Cllr N. Sokhela, Chairperson of Sustainable Development, along with several distinguished guests who shared valuable insights and guidance with learners interested in pursuing careers in aviation.

Despite cloudy skies and light rain, the excitement continued at the Pietermaritzburg Fuze Airshow held at Oribi Airport. The less-than-ideal weather conditions did little to dampen spirits, as aviation enthusiasts from across the community turned out in strong numbers. Cllr Sokhela once again showed her support, joining residents in celebrating the region's growing aviation culture.

Skilled pilots and dedicated crews captivated the crowd with a range of aerial displays, showcasing their precision and professionalism. The event highlighted Pietermaritzburg's enduring passion for aviation, proving that rain or shine, the sky was never the limit for those who dream of flight.







## FNB Football First Festival Ignites Youth Spirit at Wadley Stadium

Driven by Msunduzi Municipality's commitment to community upliftment, the Wadley FNB Stadium came alive as teams gathered for the highly anticipated FNB Football First Festival. With supporters filling the stands, the atmosphere was electric — charged with excitement, unity, and community pride. The festival stood as a powerful reminder of the Municipality's dedication to promoting youth development and nurturing emerging talent through sport. Coaches and officials ensured that all matches were conducted with professionalism, fairness, and a strong sense of sportsmanship.

Empowered, united, and unstoppable — the under-15 girls lit up the field with fierce determination and outstanding talent. Their teamwork and passion reflected the bright future of women's football in the region. The under-15 boys brought equal energy to the pitch, delivering powerful performances that showcased their skill, dedication, and potential.

The final matches were a testament to the incredible talent on display:

- Girls' Final: Edendale Tech 2 – 0 Syanda
- Boys' Final: Syanda 0 (5) – 0 (4) Hlelingomusa (Syanda won on penalties)

The FNB Football First Festival proved to be a remarkable celebration of youth talent, community spirit, and the unifying power of sport. The energy both on the field and in the stands was truly inspiring, as young athletes gave their all and supporters cheered with pride.

Msunduzi Municipality Councillor Nkosinathi Masoeu of Ward 12 extended heartfelt congratulations to all teams for their hard work and dedication throughout the festival. The event served as yet another example of the Municipality's ongoing efforts to empower the youth and strengthen community bonds through sports.





## Job Preparedness and Information Sharing Session

The Msunduzi Youth Office successfully hosted a Job Preparedness and Information Sharing Session at Vulindlela Hall in Ward 7. The event was warmly supported by Councillor B.E. Zuma, who welcomed attendees and fostered an atmosphere of unity and encouragement.

The purpose of the event was introduced by the Ward Assistant, who emphasized the importance of empowering local youth through access to information about employment opportunities and income-generating initiatives.

Several key stakeholders and partners were present to engage and support the youth, including:

- Department of Employment and Labour
- Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- Msunduzi Skills Centre
- South African Red Cross Society
- UYB (Upliftment Youth Business)

Each organization played a critical role in sharing insights about their services, offering employment guidance, and presenting pathways to economic empowerment. The event was well-received by the community, with many attendees expressing gratitude and a desire for more programmes of this kind, recognizing their educational and empowering impact on the youth of Ward 7.







## Youth Month Awareness

The Sobantu Youth Centre ward 35 hosted a Youth Month Awareness, led by Msunduzi Municipality's Area-Based Management (ABM) Department in partnership with SAPS, Msunduzi Municipality Disaster Management, the Department of Health, IEC, Gender-based Violence activists, and Crocodile Royal Trading.

The programme highlighted the shared responsibility of safeguarding children by addressing key issues such as legal protections, public safety, access to care, and strategies for early intervention. Discussions also focused on combating social challenges and encouraging active citizenship, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in creating a safer environment for all.

This collaborative effort strengthened awareness go and reinforced a commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of society.



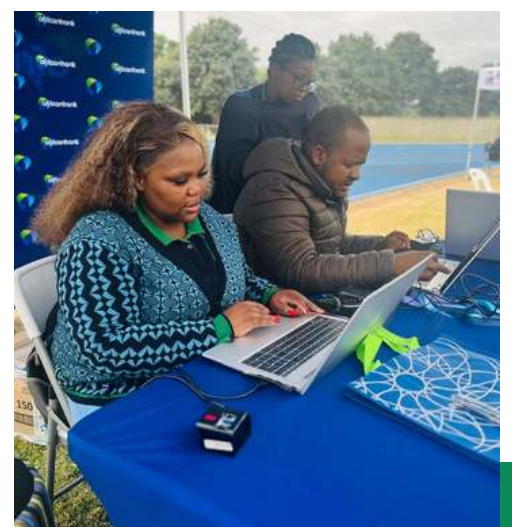


## Youth Exhibition Inspires Purpose and Potential



Msunduzi Municipality Area Based Management, in collaboration with Youth to Youth hosted an inspiring Youth Exhibition at the Pietermaritzburg Msunduzi Athletics Stadium. The event centered around the theme "Unlock your potential and know your purpose," and brought together young people for a day of motivation, learning, and empowerment.

The main purpose of the event was to encourage youth to recognize their value, discover their purpose, and take initiative in shaping their future.







## The Annual Umgungundlovu District Disability Awareness Event

The Msunduzi Municipality Libraries, proudly joined the Annual Umgungundlovu District Disability Awareness Event, which featured the inspiring Young & Youth Artisan Training Programme. Sponsored by the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (WRSETA), this vibrant event brought together key partners such as the Department of Transport, FNB, Durban University of Technology's Disability Rights Unit, SANCA, Ahlume Organisation, and the Departments of Health and Education.

Under the theme of inclusion and opportunity, the event shone a spotlight on the importance of giving people with disabilities equal chances in education, training, and employment.

Adding a touch of warmth and humanity to the day, essential mobility aids — including wheelchairs, crutches, and walking sticks — were handed over to community members who need them most.

Speaking on behalf of the Municipality, Library Services Manager Mr. Mandla Ntombela highlighted the importance of including people with disabilities in all aspects of community life. He thanked all the organisations and individuals who contributed to the day's success and encouraged continued partnerships to build an inclusive and empowered society for all.



## Disaster relief programme at the City Hall

Our Disaster Management Department, Msunduzi Fire and Rescue Services, alongside City Hope Disaster Relief; housed a relief programme at the City Hall to provide relief to communities that have recently been affected by strong winds and fires.

There were 152 beneficiaries from 23 wards. Namely Wards 01, 02, 03, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 38, and 41.

Ward Councillors were also present to stand in solidarity with the affected residents and provide support where necessary.

In addition, for families who were left homeless, the Disaster Management Department will provide temporary shelter once the necessary assessment and processes are completed.







## Relief Efforts Mobilized After Devastating Jika Joe Fire

The Msunduzi Disaster Management Office, in collaboration with humanitarian organisation Gift of the Givers and Ward 33 Councillor Suraya Reddy, conducted a site visit to the Jika Joe Informal Settlement following a recent devastating fire incident.

The aim of the visit was to assess the impact of the fire and to provide immediate humanitarian relief to the affected residents. Efforts focused on restoring a sense of human dignity and normalcy for those who had lost their homes and belongings. The distribution of basic necessities formed part of an ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable communities during times of crisis.





## Animal Control Operation on Edendale Road

The Msunduzi Municipality's Animal Pound unit is working together with different departments to manage stray animals and prevent cruelty. These include the SPCA, SAPS (Plessislaer Police Station), Department of Home Affairs, Environmental Health, RTI, Msunduzi Security, and Licensing. One of their main tasks is to verify livestock animal documents to determine where the animals come from, confirm ownership, and make sure animals are being treated properly and sold legally.

The team investigates cases of stolen animals by checking removal certificates and making sure all documents are in order. This helps trace the animals back to their rightful owners and stops people from moving animals illegally.

As part of the animal control operation, the team checks the identity of individuals involved in moving or selling animals. This helps prevent illegal activities, including those related to immigration. By working together, the operation ensures that animals are protected and that animal control services in Msunduzi remain safe, fair, and well-managed.





## Handover of sports and fitness equipment

The Msunduzi Municipality Youth Development Office, in partnership with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Msunduzi Aerobics Fitness Clubs, and various sports federations including netball, cricket, football, and rugby, hosted a successful handover of sports and fitness equipment at Committee Room 03, City Hall.

Speaking at the event, Political Office Senior Manager Mr. S. Zondi expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the support and collaboration that made this initiative possible. "Sport is not just an activity, it creates careers for many people. Our commitment is to reach all the Msunduzi wards and uplift sport and fitness development," said Mr. Zondi.

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.







## Fleet Auction

The Msunduzi Municipality's Asset and Liabilities Department, in partnership with D & K Auctioneers, successfully hosted a public auction aimed at disposing of municipal assets in a transparent and cost-effective manner.

The auction featured over 226 municipal assets, including light motor vehicles, light delivery vehicles (LDVs), trucks, and various other movable goods.

The event offered an excellent opportunity for businesses and individuals to acquire these items at significantly discounted prices, as part of the municipality's ongoing asset disposal program.





## Operation Clean-Up at Copesville

Msunduzi Municipality's Area Based Management Northern Area in collaboration with the Waste Management team, Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the environment, aQuelle, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and the vibrant Copsvilles community joined hands for a successful Operation Clean-Up

This initiative focused on clearing an illegal dumping site that had become a health and environmental concern for the area. The primary aim of the program was not only to restore cleanliness but also to raise awareness and encourage residents to take ownership of their surroundings.

Community members were actively involved in the clean-up efforts, demonstrating unity and a shared responsibility towards maintaining a clean, safe, and healthy environment. The campaign also aimed to educate citizens on the importance of using legal dumping sites and adopting sustainable waste disposal habits.





## Operation Ilima

Team Qoqamamillion recently conducted an audit inspection at Beacon Hill Country Estate to ensure the integrity of water meters and municipal infrastructure.

During the inspection, instances of tampering with both water and electricity meters were uncovered, particularly at Signal Road, where an account balance exceeding R53,000 was outstanding. The tampering of electricity infrastructure was identified as not only illegal and dangerous but also disruptive to essential service delivery across the estate. As a result, water and electricity disconnections were carried out across affected properties due to non-payment of municipal accounts.

Active audits were conducted throughout the estate as part of an ongoing effort to hold residents accountable and protect municipal assets. Residents were reminded of the legal implications of tampering and the importance of maintaining compliance with municipal regulations.

