Msunduzi Municipality

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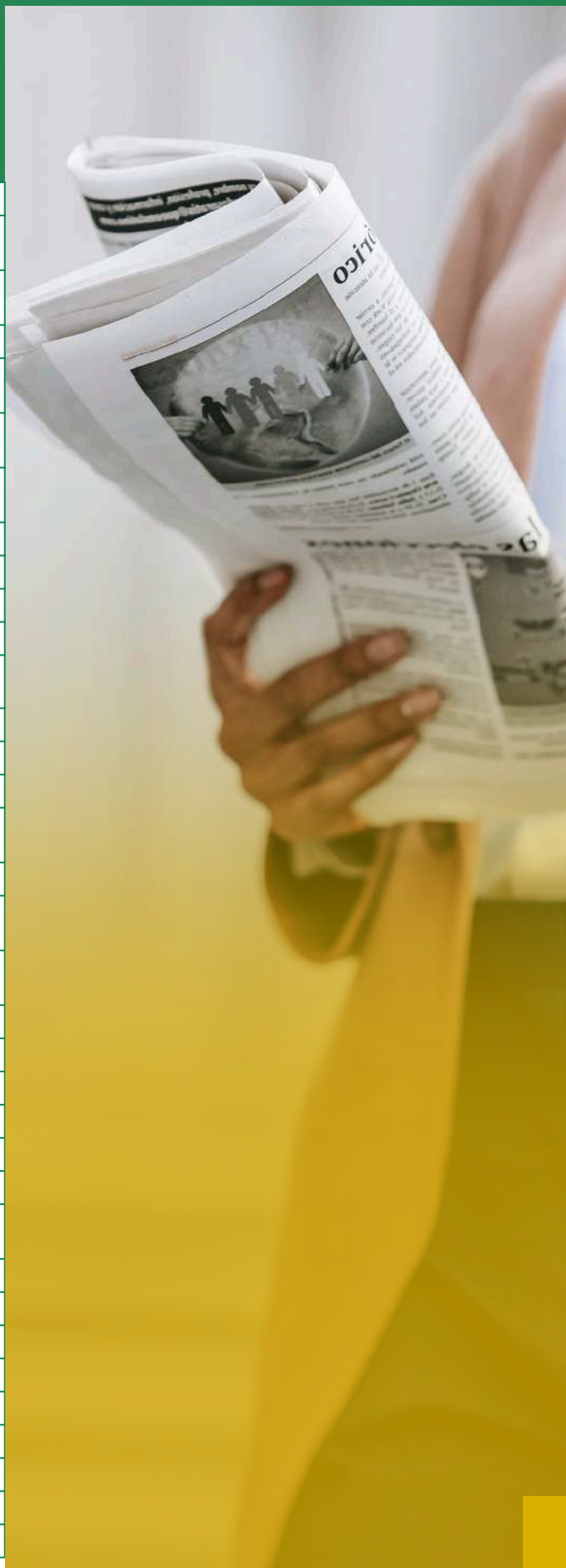
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Insights from the Mayor



As we bring October to a close, I am encouraged by the progress we continue to make as Msunduzi Municipality works towards building a safe, vibrant, sustainable and smart metropolis. This month's activities reflect our ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life of our residents through responsive governance, service delivery, community empowerment and strategic partnerships.

Throughout October, we continued to take meaningful steps towards addressing the needs of our communities. From the handover of houses and title deeds to the opening of new community libraries and the Madiba Community Hall, these initiatives demonstrate our commitment to restoring dignity, expanding access to opportunities and bringing essential services closer to our people. The unveiling of 44 newly acquired municipal vehicles, representing an investment of approximately R30 million, further strengthens our operational capacity and our ability to respond to service delivery needs. An additional R8 million allocation towards Waste Management will also support efforts to improve waste collection services across the City.

We remain equally committed to stimulating local economic growth, attracting investment and creating opportunities for our residents, particularly young people. Through engagements such as the PMB Invades Johannesburg Investor Webinar, youth business development workshops and initiatives supporting local traders, we continue to position Pietermaritzburg as a destination for investment, entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development.

Our community programmes have also reinforced the importance of building a municipality that cares for all its residents. Initiatives such as Qina Mbokodo, gender-based violence awareness programmes, mental health engagements and support for vulnerable households remind us that development must go beyond infrastructure. It must also protect human dignity, promote inclusion and ensure that no member of our community is left behind.

As we continue to strengthen partnerships with government departments, business stakeholders, traditional leadership, community organisations and residents, I wish to emphasise that building a better Msunduzi is a collective responsibility. We must continue working together, holding one another accountable and placing the interests of our communities at the centre of everything we do. I also encourage residents to remain actively involved in municipal programmes, participate in community engagements and take ownership of the development taking place in their neighbourhoods. Your voices, participation and cooperation remain essential to shaping the future of our City.

As we look ahead to November, let us carry forward the spirit of unity, commitment and progress. Together, we will continue advancing our vision of a City of Choice that creates opportunities, delivers quality services and provides a better future for generations to come.

Asimile Siyaqhuba!

Yours in service,

Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla
Mayor – Msunduzi Municipality



Msunduzi Champions Safe and Sustainable Mobility at Transport Month Expo

By Anele Makhanya ***Photos: Anele Makhanya***

Msunduzi Municipality participated in the Transport, Campus Safety & Smart Mobility Awareness Expo at Steve Biko Campus.

As the country observes Transport Month, the Municipality's participation in platforms such as this is important in strengthening collaboration, sharing knowledge and raising awareness around safe, efficient and sustainable roads and transportation.

Held under the theme "Transforming Mobility Through Innovation, Safety and Sustainability", the expo brought together stakeholders to engage on the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of mobility.

The Municipality's Roads and Transportation team used this platform to engage with students, stakeholders and the broader community, while sharing information on the work being undertaken to improve transportation and mobility within Msunduzi.

Transport Month reminds us that creating safer and more accessible transportation systems is a shared responsibility. Through continued engagement and partnerships, we can play our part in building a connected and mobile city.











Msunduzi and DPSA Strengthen Partnership Through Public Value Governance

By Nompumelelo Mthembu **Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe**

Msunduzi Municipality joined the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) at the Maritime School of Excellence in Durban for the certificate handover ceremony of the inaugural cohort of the Managing Change and Public Value Governance (PVG) Programme.

DPSA Acting Director-General, Mr Willie Vukela, delivered the keynote address and expressed appreciation for the presence and partnership of Msunduzi Municipality in this important initiative.

The cohort was deployed by the Minister of Public Service and Administration, Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, in collaboration with the Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality, Cllr M. Thebolla, to support the Municipality's efforts to build a safer and cleaner Pietermaritzburg. The programme demonstrates the value of collaboration across the three spheres of government, showing that when government works together with a shared purpose, we can achieve more for our communities.













Handover of the CAF Prize Money

By Phumla Mdletshe ***Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa***

His Worship Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Mayor, ward 12 Councillor N Masoeu joined KZN MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture, Mr M. Khawula, at Edendale Technical High School for the handover of the CAF prize money, celebrating the remarkable achievement of the school's girls' football team in the CAF African Schools Football Championship.

The investment is helping improve the school's facilities, creating better spaces for education, sport and youth development.

A proud celebration of young champions whose achievement continues to inspire.

















Msunduzi Municipality and SANTACO Inspect Moses Mabhida Road Ahead of October Launch

By Bongani A. Nyembe **Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa**

In alignment with the national October Transport Month campaign, the Msunduzi Municipality Infrastructure Services Portfolio Committee, led by Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize and Madam Speaker Eunice Majola alongside representatives from the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), conducted a comprehensive joint site inspection along the upgraded Moses Mabhida Road public transport corridor.

The site visit aimed to assess the final operational readiness, road safety features and structural quality of the crucial arterial route prior to its official handover and launch scheduled for 26 October 2026.

Moses Mabhida Road serves as a vital economic link connecting thousands of daily commuters, public transport operators and local businesses between the Pietermaritzburg CBD, Edendale and surrounding townships.

Speaking during the inspection, the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize emphasised that collaborating directly with public transport stakeholders like SANTACO ensures infrastructure delivery directly addresses the day-to-day realities of commuters and transport operators.











Msunduzi Municipality and SANTACO conduct Taxi Rank site inspection

By Samukelo Mbanjwa

Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa

Msunduzi Municipality Infrastructure Services Portfolio Committee, led by Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, together with the Chairperson for Sustainable Development and City Entities Cllr Zethu Sokhela, political office Senior Manager Mr S. Zondi and representatives from the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), conducted a site inspection at Market Square, Basement and Retief Street Taxi Ranks.

The inspection focused on assessing safety, cleanliness and general conditions at the taxi ranks, while engaging with rank managers on the challenges they are currently experiencing. The visit forms part of ongoing efforts to address concerns and improve public transport facilities across the city.



















Msunduzi Mayor Welcomes Football Legends for MTN8 Trophy Tour in Pietermaritzburg

By Bongani A. Nyembe ***Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa***

The Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla warmly received legendary South African football icons Lehlohonolo Majoro and Vuyo Mere at the City Hall today as part of the official MTN8 Trophy Tour traversing KwaZulu-Natal.

Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla expressed great pride in having Pietermaritzburg selected as a key stop on the trophy tour, highlighting the city's deep-rooted passion for football and the economic boost major which sporting events bring to the broader KwaZulu-Natal region.

The football legends officially presented the coveted MTN8 Wafa Wafa trophy to Mayor Thebolla, bringing the electric atmosphere of South Africa's premier early-season tournament directly to the Capital City ahead of this weekend's highly anticipated final on Saturday, 10 October 2026 (18:00 kick-off) where defending champions Orlando Pirates square off against rivals Mamelodi Sundowns in front of a sold-out crowd.





Qina Mbokodo: Empowering Communities, Building Strength

By Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize **Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe**

The Qina Mbokodo Speakers' Public Engagement Programme continues to visit communities across Msunduzi Municipality, bringing information, support services and empowerment initiatives closer to residents.

As part of the programme, Msunduzi Municipality Speaker, Councillor Eunice Majola, hosted an engagement at Sobantu Sports Ground in Ward 35, focusing on women's empowerment, gender-based violence (GBV) awareness and access to support services.

Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla engaged with residents and highlighted the importance of women's participation in building safer communities. The programme also included the handover of title deeds to beneficiaries, supporting secure homeownership.

Speaker Cllr. Eunice Majola encouraged women to recognise their worth and embrace the message of "Qina Mbokodo" by standing strong and confident. She also highlighted the important role men can play in creating safer and more supportive communities.

Residents received information on civic participation and voter education from the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), as well as access to other essential services. Through the Qina Mbokodo programme, Msunduzi Municipality continues to engage communities, share information and connect residents with services that support their well-being.



















Annual Grade 12 Pre-Exam Prayer Programme

By Phumla Mdletshe ***Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa***

Vulindlela Area Based Management (ABM), in partnership with the Department of Health, Department of Correctional Services, Eskom, Sappi and First National Bank (FNB), hosted its annual Grade 12 Pre-Exam Prayer Programme at the eNqabeni Hall, bringing together the Class of 2026 from schools in Ward 3 and surrounding areas.

The programme aimed to prepare and empower learners for their final examinations by focusing on their academic, emotional, spiritual and psychological wellbeing. Learners received spiritual guidance, motivation and words of encouragement to strengthen their confidence, resilience and determination as they prepare for this important milestone.

Wishing the Class of 2026 all the best in their final examinations! May your hard work, dedication and perseverance bring you success. Stay focused, believe in yourselves and approach every examination with confidence. Your future is bright, and this is your moment to shine.















Multi School Gathering Receives Inspiring Words and prayer from Msunduzi Deputy Mayor

By Ayanda Mngadi **Photos: Andile Mahlaba**

Spirits ran high, and unity filled the venue as Msunduzi Municipality Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize joined by Elandskop Innovation Centre, IEC and other stakeholders stepped into St. John Paul Secondary School to host a powerful multi school gathering, offering a special prayer and motivational boost to the Class of 2026 matriculants.

As these young scholars stand on the threshold of their final examinations, the visit served as a reminder that they do not walk this journey alone. Municipal leadership, educators, and the broader community gathered to wrap the learners in words of hope, spiritual strength, and academic encouragement.

Addressing the learners, the Deputy Mayor emphasized the critical role that education plays in shaping the future of Msunduzi. The event reaffirmed the municipality's unwavering commitment to supporting local youth, reminding every matriculant that their success is the city's success. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world, and our matriculants are Msunduzi's next generation of change makers.

















IDP/Budget Feedback Session

By Ntobeko Mkhize
Anele Makhanya

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

The Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, engaged with residents during the IDP/Budget Feedback Session held in Imbali Unit 14, Ward 41, bringing government closer to communities and providing feedback on issues raised during previous Mayoral Imbizo sessions.

The engagement brought together community members, SASSA, the IEC and municipal officials to discuss key concerns, including municipal account statements and outstanding balances, debt write-offs, Indigent Support for vulnerable residents, water-related debts and other community challenges.

During the session, the Mayor announced that the Municipality had written off municipal debt valued at over R250 million, providing financial relief to qualifying residents. Debt write-off certificates valued at R1,265,000.00 were also issued to beneficiaries on the day.

Cllr Thebolla urged residents experiencing difficulties with municipal debt to approach the Municipality to establish whether they qualified for assistance. He emphasised the importance of seeking help before outstanding accounts became unmanageable.

The debt write-off process remains ongoing, and eligible residents are encouraged to visit their nearest relevant municipal office to confirm their eligibility, understand the qualifying criteria and obtain guidance on the application process.

The Municipality remains committed to engaging with communities, addressing residents' concerns and providing support to qualifying households while encouraging responsible management of municipal accounts.









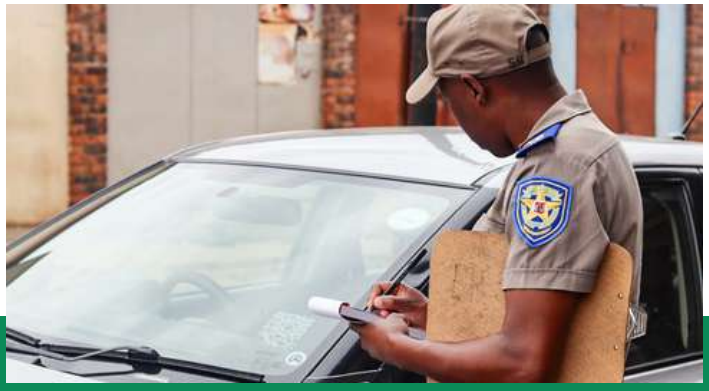












Joint Multi-Disciplinary Operation targets traffic violations and illegal activities in the City

By Bongani A. Nyembe ***Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa***

In a coordinated effort to enhance public safety and uphold law and order, Msunduzi Municipality Traffic Police in partnership with the South African Police Service successfully conducted a high-visibility multi-disciplinary operation within the city centre.

The joint operation was spearheaded by Chief Traffic Officer Bheki. Xulu and focused on curbing traffic violations, apprehending non-compliant motorists, and disrupting general illegal activities across key city routes, the operation started between West Street and Pine Street the continued along Church Street and finished back on West Street.

Officers checked vehicles for road worthiness, verified driver's licences and issued fines for traffic offences, Chief traffic officer B.H Xulu stated that "Working together with SAPS allows us to tackle both traffic law violations and crime at the same time. These operations will continue regularly to ensure our city streets stay safe and orderly".







Launch of Library at Mzimba Primary School

By Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize ***Photos: Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize***

Msunduzi Municipality's Area Based Management (ABM), together with Msunduzi Library Services, officially launched a library at Mzimba Primary School to give learners better access to books and educational resources.

The launch was marked by learner performances and a reading session. Ward 5 Councillor M.N. Mbanjwa highlighted the importance of investing in children's education, acknowledged the contributions of the stakeholders who made the initiative possible and donated school jerseys to learners. The programme also included a tree-planting activity.

Through partnerships with schools and communities, Msunduzi Municipality continues to support education and promote a love for reading among young people. The library will provide learners with an opportunity to explore books, gain knowledge and develop skills that will support their learning journey.















Qina Mbokodo Gender-Based Awareness Programme

By Phumla Mdletshe **Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa**

Madam Speaker, Cllr Eunice Majola, hosted the Qina Mbokodo Gender-Based Awareness Programme (Swenka Ngepinifa) at Mpushini Hall, Sweetwater, in Ward 2.

The programme was warmly welcomed by Ward 2 Councillor Zuma, who expressed his gratitude for bringing this important initiative to his ward. The programme aims to raise awareness, empower women, and encourage communities to stand together against gender-based violence.

“Our women deserve to live with dignity, respect and without fear. Let us continue to support, protect and uplift one another, because the safety and dignity of every woman is our collective responsibility.” Said Madam Speaker, Cllr Eunice Majola

The programme reaffirmed the importance of community engagement, awareness, and collective action in building safer and more supportive communities for women and girls.







Community Brightening and Empowerment Programme

By Ayanda Mngadi **Photos: Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize**

Msunduzi Local Municipality and uMgungundlovu District Municipality hosted a joint community brightening and empowerment programme led by Cllr D. Phungula and District Mayor Cllr Mzi Zuma. Under their leadership, major steps are being taken to uplift the ward and directly improve the daily lives of local families. A core focus of this initiative is housing transformation and development, ensuring that residents across the ward benefit from dignified, safer and upgraded living conditions.

Further more to housing improvements, active measures are being taken to fight crime and protect residents throughout the neighbourhood. High-mast security lighting has been installed in key areas to illuminate previously dark streets. Increased visibility helps deter criminal activity, creates safer pathways for people walking at night and gives families greater peace of mind within their community.

The most important milestone concerns the local power supply, as load reduction in this ward has officially come to an end. With the installation of modern electricity meters, power management has improved significantly, bringing relief and a more reliable service to households. Together, these impactful initiatives ensure that no resident is left behind as the municipalities continue building a brighter, more secure and prosperous future for everyone.













Msunduzi Municipality Leads Strategic "PMB INVADES JOHANNESBURG" Investor Webinar

By Bongani A. Nyembe **Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe**











His Worship the Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Cllr Zethu Sokhela along Municipal Manager Mr. F.S. Mndebele, and Deputy Municipal Manager of Sustainable development Mr N. Khuzwayo and Senior Manager Development services Mr L. Dlamini. In a major drive to position Pietermaritzburg as KwaZulu-Natal's premier destination for capital investment hosted the high-impact "PMB Invades Johannesburg" Investment Webinar.

Together, the municipal leadership presented a unified and compelling vision aimed at driving economic revival, boosting local industries, creating sustainable employment and building robust private-public partnerships.

Pietermaritzburg is open for business. Our goal with the 'PMB Invades Johannesburg' engagement is to proactively take our value proposition directly to South Africa's financial hub. We are committed to fostering an environment where business thrives, infrastructure supports expansion, and investments directly benefit our local communities through jobs and economic stability.
— His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla

The initiative forms part of the municipality's broader commitment to promoting economic growth, improving investment confidence and creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. Collaboration between government and the private sector remains essential in unlocking economic opportunities and addressing unemployment.

Stakeholder Engagement with the Disability Sector

Captions and photos: Provided

Area Based Management Central assisted the IEC uMgungundlovu District in hosting a Stakeholder Engagement with the Disability Sector at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall, Ward 27.

The programme focused on the District State of Readiness for the 2026 Local Government Elections, with key messages from Mrs. Xolile Hulane (Municipal Electoral Officer), uMgungundlovu District Disability Forum, UKZN Differently Abled Students Association and DUT Disability Rights Unit.

The session included a practical demonstration of the voting process — Special Voting, Voting, Counting and Results Determination, and Seat Allocation — to ensure inclusive and accessible elections for all.













Mayor leads multi-disciplinary traffic and law enforcement operation along Moses Mabhida Road

By Bongani A. Nyembe **Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa**

In a robust multi-stakeholder effort to enforce law and order and enhance public safety, His Worship the Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, today led a joint high-visibility roadblock along Moses Mabhida Road.

The collaborative operation brought together key partners in public transport, higher education and law enforcement, including the Department of Transport (DoT), South African Police Service (SAPS), Hlokomela (Public Transport Road Safety Initiative) and the Durban University of Technology (DUT). The strategic partnership demonstrates a shared commitment between local government, provincial transport authorities, policing bodies and higher education institutions to create safer transit roads in Msunduzi.

Addressing law enforcement officers and members of the public during the operation, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, emphasised the critical importance of collective responsibility in safeguarding lives on the road hence why the operation focused on checking roadworthiness of vehicles, inspecting driver licensing and permits, executing outstanding traffic warrants and curbing reckless driving along one of Pietermaritzburg's major arterial routes.










Msunduzi Municipality Empowers Township Youth through Business Opportunities

By Andile Mthimkhulu **Photos: Ayanda Mngadi**








The Msunduzi Municipality's Area Based Management Unit (ABM) , in partnership with Edendale Mall, MLab, SEDFA, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Standard Bank and the Youth Empowerment Fund hosted a business Information Workshop at Sakhamuzi Hall in Ward 21.

The workshop aimed to empower young people with information on business development, funding opportunities and support services available to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. As the KwaZulu-Natal Office of the Premier continues to provide opportunities through initiatives such as the Youth Empowerment Fund, the workshop served as a platform to connect young people with relevant organisations and equip them with knowledge to start or grow their businesses.

The workshop also covered business permit applications and available support for businesses. Msunduzi Municipality continues to support youth empowerment by promoting access to information and opportunities that encourage entrepreneurship, business growth and job creation within communities.




Mayor Thebolla Joins SASSA Milestone Commemoration

By Sduduziwe Madonda ***Photos: Provided***

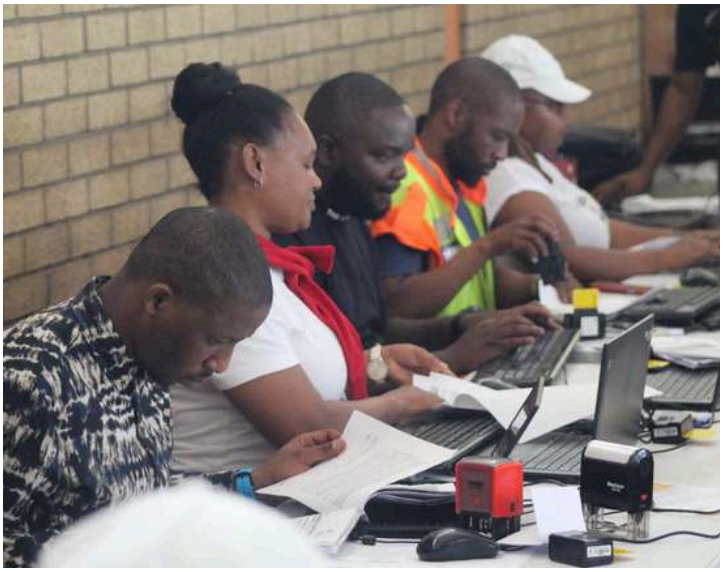
Two decades ago, the government established a single national agency to streamline the administration of social grants and improve coordination within the social assistance system. This initiative unified previously fragmented provincial grant administration, paving the way for one of the largest social protection systems in the developing world.

Cllr Mayor Mzimkhulu Thebolla attended the commemoration of SASSA's significant milestone, where he highlighted the vital role social grants continued to play in supporting individuals, families and communities.

With the Local Government Elections approaching, the Mayor encouraged residents to participate in the democratic process and make informed choices that reflected their needs and aspirations.

He also emphasised the importance of ensuring that those entrusted with public office remained responsive to community needs and committed to improving the lives of the people they served.















Msunduzi Municipality Bessie Head Library Services hosts Trashion Show

By Noxolo Mazibuko

Photos: Noxolo Mazibuko













Msunduzi Municipality Bessie Head Library Services, in collaboration with various stakeholders, hosted a Trashion Show at the Bessie Head Library Garden, bringing together special schools from across Msunduzi to promote recycling and environmental awareness.

Learners showcased outfits made from recycled materials, including plastics and paper. Certificates and trophies were awarded in recognition of their creativity.

Newton Pre-Vocational School took first place. Congratulations to all participating schools and teachers for their dedication and hard work!

Through initiatives like these, Msunduzi Municipality Bessie Head Library Services continues to promote learning, creativity and environmental responsibility within the community.

Ward 32 Mental Health Awareness Day

By Ayanda Mngadi *Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa*

Msunduzi Area Based Management, Department of Mental Health, Change Agents project, and other stakeholders recently hosted a Mental Health Awareness Month program in Ward 32, with Ward Councillor Garth Middleton officially opening the event and delivering a warm welcome to attendees.

Designed with a special focus on senior citizens, the initiative emphasized that true wellness requires a balanced foundation integrating physical, spiritual, and mental health to empower community members. By prioritizing holistic well-being for older residents, the program underscored the municipality's commitment to building an inclusive, supportive society.

Elevating mental health alongside physical and spiritual strength helps restore dignity and ensures that senior citizens enjoy an optimal quality of life. Ultimately, the program not only strengthened unity across Ward 32, but also highlighted the importance of breaking the stigma surrounding mental health across all generations.












Celebrating Excellence in Traditional Leadership

By Anele Makhanya **Photos: Anele Makhanya**

Msunduzi Municipality Speaker, Cllr Eunice Majola, delivered the opening address and closing remarks at the Umgungundlovu Local House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders 3rd Annual Excellence Awards.

In her address, Cllr Majola emphasised the importance of strengthening collaboration between municipalities, Amakhosi and iziNduna to build better, safer and more united communities through shared leadership and service to the people.

The event brought together municipal leadership, traditional leaders and government representatives, including the Mayor of Richmond Municipality, Cllr Ngcongo; Mkhambathini Municipality representative, Cllr Ntombela; the Mayor of uMshwathi Municipality, Cllr Zondi; municipal managers and officials from KZN COGTA, uMgungundlovu District Municipality and its local municipalities.

The evening was a memorable celebration of excellence, recognising and honouring outstanding contributions across various award categories. It also reaffirmed the importance of partnership, mutual respect and collective responsibility in advancing community development.

Together, we celebrate excellence, strengthen partnerships and build better communities.













UKZN Students Gain Insight into Msunduzi Municipality Operations

By Andile Mthimkhulu **Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe**

Msunduzi Municipality, through the Office of the Municipal Manager, hosted students from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Political Sciences Cluster, Policy and Development Studies (PODS), for a site visit at the Msunduzi Council Chamber, City Hall.

The programme provided students with insight into the municipality's political and administrative structures, strategic planning processes and service delivery responsibilities. Presentations covered the structure of the Municipal Council, public representation, departmental functions and key municipal plans, including the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

Discussions also focused on Infrastructure Services, including roads, water and electricity supply, as well as challenges affecting service delivery. Development Services were highlighted through economic planning and infrastructure, Local Economic Development (LED), business development and business licensing. Strategies relating to land and development opportunities were also discussed, emphasising their role in promoting investment, economic growth and sustainable development.

The programme further highlighted the municipality's service delivery achievements and challenges, giving students a broader understanding of local government operations and the role of municipal departments in addressing community needs. The site visit provided a valuable learning opportunity for students to understand municipal governance, planning and service delivery, as well as the municipality's contribution to local economic growth and community development.

















From Prison to Palace Comedy Show

By Noxolo Mazibuko **Photos: Noxolo Mazibuko**

Pietermaritzburg City Hall came alive with laughter and entertainment as the From Prison to Palace Comedy Show, hosted by Msunduzi Municipal Library Services, took place in celebration of Global Media and Information Literacy Week.

The event brought together talented comedians, entertainment lovers and members of the community for an evening filled with laughter, creativity and memorable performances.

Beyond the entertainment, the show highlighted the importance of media and information literacy while providing a platform for comedians to showcase their talent and connect with audiences through humour and storytelling.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of creativity, talent and community engagement, demonstrating how entertainment can bring people together while promoting awareness and learning.

















Msunduzi Municipality Restores Dignity Through Housing and Title Deed Handovers

By Anele Makhanya

Photos: Andile Mahlaba
Bongani A. Nyembe

Msunduzi Municipality continued its commitment to improving the lives of residents as Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, handed over title deeds to residents in Ward 11 and newly built houses to delighted beneficiaries in Ward 29, Copesville, and Ward 38, Thembalihle.

The handover of title deeds marked a significant step towards restoring dignity and providing residents with secure ownership of their homes and land. Mayor Thebolla emphasised that title deeds offered more than legal proof of ownership; they provided families with certainty, peace of mind and the opportunity to plan their futures with confidence.

The newly built houses represented another important milestone in advancing access to decent housing and improving living conditions for residents. Reflecting on the historic vision of the Freedom Charter, the Mayor highlighted the importance of ensuring that every person had access to adequate housing, security and comfort.

These initiatives formed part of Msunduzi Municipality's five-year mandate of delivering essential services, promoting community development and bringing meaningful change to the lives of residents. Through housing delivery and the provision of title deeds, the Municipality continued to demonstrate its commitment to building stronger communities and creating opportunities for a better future.

Congratulations to all the beneficiaries as they embarked on this new chapter with greater security, dignity and hope. Asimile Siyaqhuba! Together, we continue building a better Msunduzi.



















Workshop for Spaza Shop owners and traders in Ward 18

By Andile Mthimkhulu **Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa**

Msunduzi Municipality, in collaboration with PMCB Trade Hub, conducted a workshop for spaza shop owners and traders in Ward 18, led by the Senior Manager of Development Services, Mr L. Dlamini.The workshop aimed to educate traders on the importance of complying with these requirements to ensure that their businesses operate within the relevant regulations and provide a safe environment for their customers and the community.

The workshop featured presentations from various departments, including Business Licensing, Environmental Health, Building Control, Town Planning, and Fire Safety and Emergency Services. The departments shared important information on the requirements that business owners must meet to operate legally and safely, including business licensing, health and safety standards, building compliance and fire safety regulations.

The initiatives reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to supporting local traders through information-sharing and regulatory guidance, while encouraging compliance, promoting sustainable business operations and ensuring a safe trading environment for both business owners and the community.















Online Application Assistance Programme

By Phumla Mdletshe **Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe**

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, expressed his appreciation for the online application assistance programme hosted at the eMaswazini One Stop Development Centre in Ward 38.

The programme was organised in collaboration with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), the Department of Social Development and Nedbank, with the aim of assisting students with their NSFAS funding applications as they prepare to enrol at institutions of higher learning.

The Mayor welcomed this initiative, recognising the importance of partnerships between government departments, financial institutions and relevant stakeholders in creating educational opportunities for young people.

The initiative seeks to ensure that prospective students receive the necessary support and guidance to complete their applications successfully, helping them access financial assistance and pursue their educational aspirations.

















Child-Headed Households Awareness Programme

By Ayanda Mngadi *Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa*

Msunduzi Municipality's Area-Based Management (Central), in partnership with the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, Izwi Labafelokazi and Umzansi Youth, hosted a Child-Headed Households Awareness Programme at Thembalihle Community Hall in Ward 38.

The programme aimed to raise awareness of the challenges faced by children living in child-headed households and to encourage community members to play an active role in supporting and protecting these children.

Participants also discussed ways to strengthen collaboration, share resources and commit to building a brighter future through sustainable support systems for children heading households.

This initiative reflects Msunduzi Municipality's commitment to building a caring, united and resilient community.

















Officially Opening the Madiba Community Hall

By Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize **Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa**

Msunduzi Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, officially opened the Madiba Community Hall in Ward 34, alongside the speaker Cllr Eunice Majola and Ward Councillor R. Ram and municipal officials.

Addressing the community, Mayor Thebolla reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to service delivery and providing residents with essential community facilities that support local needs and development.

The hall will serve as a space for community meetings, municipal programmes and other social activities.

The Municipality encourages residents to take ownership of the facility and ensure its proper care for the benefit of the entire community.





















Msunduzi Municipality's Madam Speaker Cllr Eunice Majola Leads the Call for Stronger Action Against Gender-Based Violence

By Sanelisiwe W. Mkhize ***Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa***

Msunduzi Municipality continues to take the Qina Mbokodo Gender-Based Violence Awareness Programme (Swenka Ngephinifa) to different communities, raising awareness and encouraging collective action against gender-based violence. The programme was held at Madiba Community Hall in Ward 34, with Madam Speaker, Cllr Eunice Majola, leading the engagement.

Cllr Majola emphasised that Qina Mbokodo goes beyond receiving amaphinifa (women's cultural attire). It provides a platform for women to be heard, discuss challenges within their homes, find solutions to personal and family problems, and learn about issues such as dementia, particularly among older people. She encouraged women to remain strong, resilient and independent while calling on men to take responsibility and actively support their families.

Through these ongoing engagements, Msunduzi Municipality continues to promote community participation and collective responsibility in building safer communities for women and girls.

Mayor unveils R30 million municipal fleet investment to boost service delivery

By Anele Makhanya **Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe**

The Msunduzi Municipality has unveiled 44 newly acquired municipal vehicles, representing an investment of approximately R30 million aimed at strengthening operational capacity, improving service delivery and reducing response times across key municipal departments. The fleet will support Security, Disaster Management, Roads and Drainage, Water, Sanitation, Electricity and Waste Management.

Municipal Manager, Mr Simon Felani Mndebele, called on employees and managers to exercise accountability and responsibility in managing the newly acquired assets. He cautioned against the misuse of municipal vehicles and warned that dashboard cameras and other monitoring systems must not be removed, tampered with or disabled. "These vehicles must be used strictly for authorised municipal purposes. We expect responsible driving, proper maintenance and adherence to fleet management policies. Any misconduct must be addressed, while reducing accidents and protecting municipal assets must remain a priority," said Mndebele.

Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla said the investment reaffirmed a commitment made five years ago to improve the municipality's tools of trade and equip departments to fulfil their service delivery responsibilities. "Over the past five years, we have consistently worked towards this commitment through the annual acquisition and unveiling of fleet for different departments. We recognise that our officials need the necessary tools and resources to respond to communities and deliver services effectively. "This year's investment is another step towards improving response times and ensuring that residents experience tangible improvements in service delivery. In addition, R8 million has been made available for Waste Management to strengthen its operational capacity and improve waste collection services. "Our commitment remains to build a responsive municipality that delivers for its people and advances the vision of the City of Choice," said Mayor Thebolla

The Municipality calls on all employees entrusted with these assets to ensure their responsible use, safeguarding and maintenance in the interests of improved service delivery.












Copesville Celebrates the Opening of a New Library

By Anele Makhanya **Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe**

Msunduzi Municipality, under the leadership of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, today welcomed the Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Ms Phumzile Mgcina, for the official opening and handover of the Copesville Library.

Addressing the occasion, Mayor Thebolla welcomed the Deputy Minister and reaffirmed the importance of partnerships in advancing community development, expanding access to knowledge and creating opportunities for residents, particularly young people. The opening of the library marks another meaningful investment in building better communities through access to educational resources and information.

In her keynote address, Deputy Minister Mgcina expressed her appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed towards making this prestigious community facility a reality. She encouraged the Copesville community to take ownership of the library, protect it and make full use of the opportunities it offers, emphasising that its long-term value depends on the community's commitment to caring for it.

The occasion brought together government representatives, municipal leadership, community structures and project partners, including AfriSam and other stakeholders whose collaboration contributed to the delivery of this important facility.

The opening of the Copesville Library reflects the power of partnerships in bringing services closer to communities and creating spaces that inspire learning, literacy and lifelong development.



















2026 National Prayer

By Nosipho Caluza ***Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa***

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, attended the 2026 National Prayer Day hosted by SANTACO.

The programme focused on raising awareness around Gender-Based Violence, taxi violence, substance abuse, road safety, and peaceful elections.

Cllr Thebolla reaffirmed the Municipality's support for SANTACO's efforts in safeguarding communities and urged motorists to adhere to road regulations to ensure the safety of all road users.

Together, let us build safer communities through unity, responsibility and collective action.

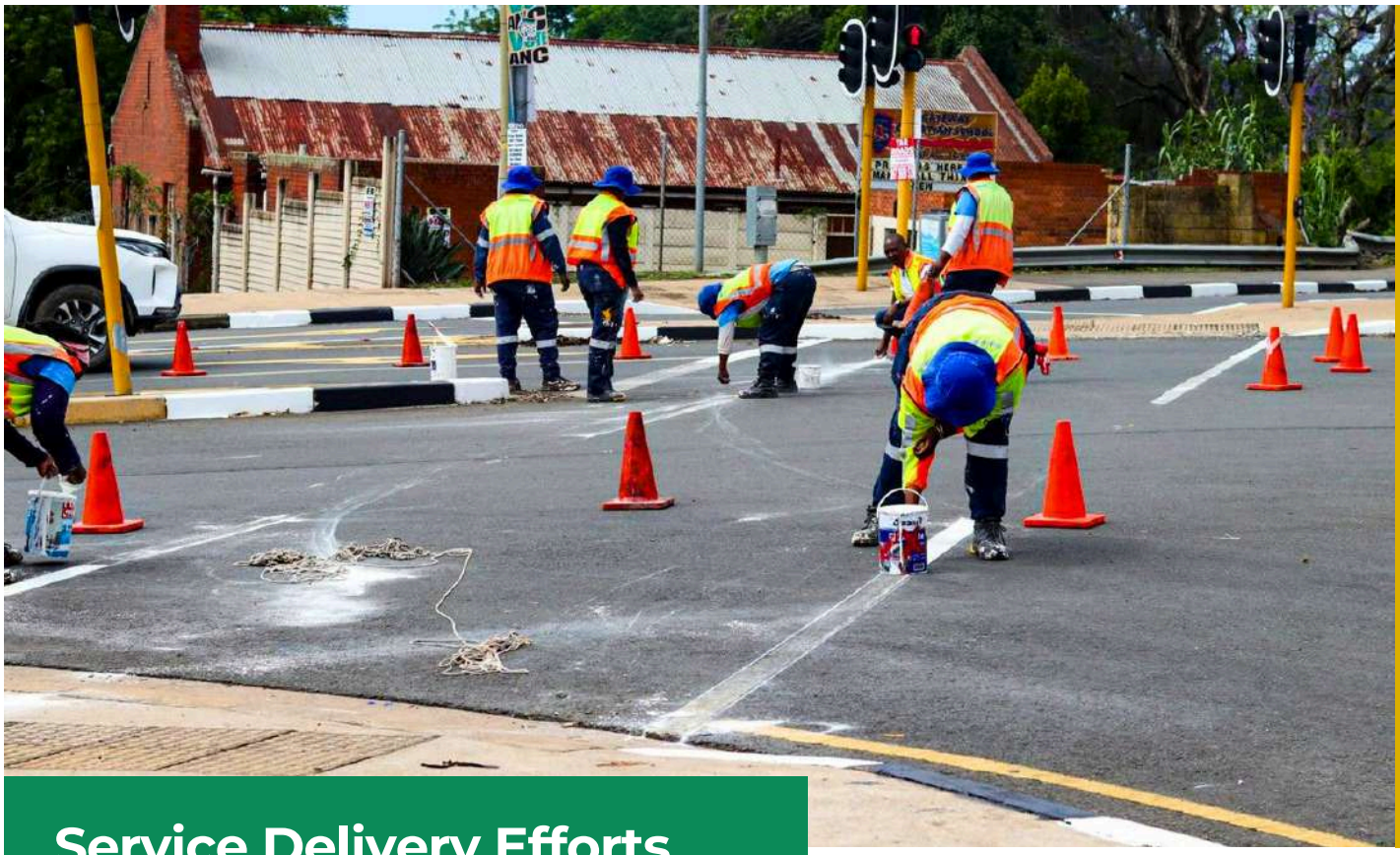












Service Delivery Efforts







