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### FEATURED

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## CITY BIDS 2022 FAREWELL IN STYLE 'THE LAST DANCE'



## CITY BIDS 2022 FAREWELL IN STYLE 'THE LAST DANCE'

The City of Choice would like to thank the members of the public who attended the Last Dance Music Festival. The Last Dance Music Festival is a big event which was hosted at the Oval Cricket Stadium on Saturday 31st December 2022.

The aim of the event was to promote tourism and market the City of Choice as a tourism destination, to promote local economic development and attract investment, to develop and empower local artists, to contribute towards social cohesion and stability; and to empower the youth, local entrepreneurs and local SMMEs. This event is one of the big economic contributor to the City of Pietermaritzburg and will positively impact on the tourism and hospitality sector which were hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and the July civic unrest. The tourism, hospitality and entertainment industries will directly benefit from the revenues that will be generated through the Last Dance Music Festival.

Over 2000 jobs were created through local service providers, including SMME's, Marshall's, and general workers. Accommodation establishment reported that they were already fully booked by Friday 30th December 2022. The City welcomed thousands of people who attended the event. The contribution of this event to the GDP is approximately 7 million. Event tourism is far more than hosting a party, however it has been identified as a vehicle to help drive domestic tourism post Covid19 pandemic, thus positively impacting local destination economies. The economy has to be stimulated and we can assure the City residents that the tourism industry is on the road to recovery.

"We are elated about the economic spinoffs that the event is bringing to our City. We certainly crossed into 2023 with renewed energy and focus in our efforts to reignite the City's economy. One of the key drivers towards reigniting the tourism sector recovery is events tourism as it promotes domestic travel by attracting future visitors who can boost local job creation through spend and need for local services and product offerings, while helping to make a case for local infrastructure improvements. Besides the economic spinoffs the event brings people together in celebration of culture, sport, music, food, drink and more. Our City was presented with a unique opportunity to host an event that is able to bring these benefits to its citizens especially local businesses." Said Mayor Mzimkhulu Thebolla.

Mayor Thebolla says that the event is in line with the City's vision 2040 of a vibrant City that provides high spirited, energetic and lively city event; adding that the Council agreed that the Last Dance Music festival will assist in showcasing the beauty of the Capital City and will put the City on the South African and global map through its marketing platforms and avenues whilst also boosting the City's local economy especially for the business community and attract tourism investment.

"We also wish to thank the Project Steering Committee that made sure that everything runs smoothly and the City's law enforcement for protecting the thousands of people in the City for the big event. The event featured 24 local artists from Pietermaritzburg and will created over 2000

## THE WELCOMING OF NEWBORNS TO THE WORLD

Mayor Thebolla joined Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube and Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane to welcome newborns to the world at Harry Gwala Regional Hospital on New Year's Day. He was pleased that this visitation was live in Msunduzi Municipality as it is one of many to come as the city celebrates 185 years of PMB.



The mayor and his deputy also welcomed 2023 babies with gifts at Northdale Hospital.

Thebolla commended the beautiful work that all healthcare workers do for the health of our society. He also urged them to educate young girls about teenage pregnancy and other sexually transmitted diseases.





## ASSESSMENT OF THE WORKING CONDITIONS AT FLEET DEPARTMENTS

On Wednesday, 04 January 2023, MM Mapholoba visited fleet departments including Mayors Walk, Edendale, and Forestry Depot.

The aim of this visit was to conduct an assessment of the working conditions, tools of trade and to have a personal interaction with staff members with regard to their duties.

The municipality's fleet department is one of the most important units since it is responsible for delivering services to communities. As a result, the municipality is able to generate much-needed revenue.

Mapholoba noted all the challenges faced by the service delivery units and made a commitment to work closely with the senior managers of these departments to ensure that there are no disruptions on service delivery.



## #QQAMAMILLION

#QoqamaMillion team targets residential complexes with rates in areas for its revenue collection blitz. Grimthorpe complex





## MAYOR THEBOLLA VISITS THE PEACE VALLEY FAMILY

Mayor Thebolla visited the family of the 8-year-old girl who was swept off the Peace Valley flat bridge by floodwater. Thebolla offered his support to the family as the rescue team continued with the search for the child. "We urge residents to avoid using low bridges and to evacuate areas that are a great danger when there are heavy rains" said the Mayor.

He reiterated that these incidents can be avoided provided that residents practice caution. "We are looking to close this bridge so to not have an incident of this nature in future" added Thebolla.

The Disaster Management teams were on high alert and inspections were undertaken in the areas reported. Cases of sewer manholes that are over flooded with rain water and blocked storm water drains in and around the Edendale areas were attended.

Sanitation and Roads employees were on the ground to ensure that the roads are accessible.

"We are appealing to motorists to drive safely and be extra cautious when traveling on roads as potholes may be filled with water and there may be sinkholes".





## 3-DAY STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

**Strategic planning session held under the theme - Accelerating service delivery to build better communities.**

Mayor Thebolla addressed Msunduzi Senior Management on Day 1 of the 3 days strategic planning session.

In his address, the Mayor reiterated that the Municipality has a critical role to play in reaffirming its vision to ensure that the Municipality functions effectively and in a sustainable manner in order to deliver services of excellence to the community of Msunduzi. "Msunduzi must continue with the material plan to tackle service delivery challenges head-on. The provision of basic services such as water and sanitation, municipal waste collection, and the repair and maintenance of roads shall continue to receive priority".

### Items for consideration by strategic planning:

- Amnesty for residential and business ratepayers
- New, continuous, and effective ways for revenue collection
- New and existing business incentives
- Clarity on the long-time business complaints of MCB charges
- Strategies for disposition of land for development and business development
- Utilising the 185th anniversary momentum to link some of the municipal campaigns
- While 7% of the operating budget component of each annual and adjustments budget shall be set aside for such maintenance. Perhaps it should be considered to adjust it to 8% so that every department is well budgeted for any maintenance requirement.







**THREE MEN BUSTED FOR SELLING FAKE PROOF OF RESIDENCE**

Speaker Cllr Majola and DM Mkhize joined an operation conducted by the integrated Law Enforcement Agencies at the Mkondeni Testing Centre. The operation was conducted after information was received that fraudulent proof of residence documents were being sold to the public by certain individuals.

Upon investigation, a number of fraudulent proof of residence documents for various wards for both Msunduzi and Ethekwini were discovered in one of the office containers. The suspects were arrested and taken into custody for further interrogation. The office container was also closed. More investigation was expected to take place to discover if more individuals were involved in the fraud.



## CONDOLENCES TO THE ZUMA FAMILY

Mayor Thebolla led a delegation from Msunduzi Council to convey their condolences to the Zuma family at Imbali Unit 2. A house fire incident that took place in the early hours of Wednesday, 11 January 2023, claimed the life of an elderly woman.

The Area Based Management and Disaster Management team responded swiftly to the incident to ensure that the family was safe and provided with basic needs.



## POWER OUTAGE AT FRANCE PHASE 5

The chairperson of the Infrastructure Services Portfolio Committee, DM Mkhize with Ward Councillor Sbongile Mncwango met with the community of France Phase 5 to address the issue of the power outages that has been affecting the community for over 5 months.

An investigation found that a transformer exploded. Eskom had advised that the issue of illegal connections had an impact on the failure of the transformer. The community came together and raised funds for a new transformer for installation.

Mkhize encouraged all residents to stop tampering with the infrastructure, and advised those qualifying to apply for indigent status, as this will help them access services for free. "I encourage you to contact the municipality and your councillors and enquire about the requirements for indigent status as this will address issues of vandalism and theft which damages the infrastructure".





## MSUNDUZI'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UNIT VISITS WOODMASTERS PALLET ASSEMBLY

The Business Development Unit conducts ongoing Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Strategy-related business visitations monthly with the role of supporting businesses, attracting investment in the city, and promoting business retention and expansion. This month the Business Development Unit visited Wood Maters Pty (Ltd) on January 16, 2023.

Wood Maters Pty (Ltd) is Located at 1 Wigford Road, Masons Mill, Pietermaritzburg. They manufacture pine wood pallets and export pallets. They started operating in 2019 and they have 9 local employees. The challenges encountered by the businesses were discussed in a successful follow-up meeting with the Local Economic Development (LED) Section.





## THE CHILD WHO DROWNED IN PEACE VALLEY, FOUND

Speaker Cllr Majola, Cllr Phungula of Ward 23, and the human settlement department went out to visit Mzwandile Ndlela, the man who found and reported the body of a child who drowned in Peace Valley during the December floods in the Msunduzi river.

The Municipality promised Ndlela who resides in an informal settlement to build him a home.





## CHURCH STREET DRAINAGE CLEAN-UP



## DRAINAGE CLEAN-UP IN COMMERCIAL STREET TOWARDS PARK STREET CHANNEL





## TLB WORKING IN EPWORTH ROAD PREPARING TO BUILD MANHOLE







## CONTRACTOR WORKING IN MONTGOMERY ROAD PATCHING





**#OURSERVICESTOYOU #CLEANERCITY**



## MSUNDUZI CELEBRATES MATRIC CLASS OF 2022



The Municipality acknowledged learners who did extremely well in the Matric Class of 2022. This was done at the Pietermaritzburg Top Achievers Awards Class of 2022 event held at the City Hall. The event was attended by officials from the education department, members of council, educators, and parents.

MM Mapholoba shared a word of wisdom with these learners, saying that the municipality wants to celebrate excellence and commitment of these learners. He said the municipality believes that these young girls and boys will get education and obtain skills that will assist the municipality achieve what it aims for, which is to be a metro by 2030. "You have made us proud and we trust that you will come back and invest in your City".

DM Mkhize also shared a short keynote address where he motivated learners to rise above any obstacles that life throws at them. "No conditions can stop you from achieving your goals. We encourage you to go and source tertiary education and return to the City to develop it. We need you to come up with innovative ideas that will contribute to the betterment of Msunduzi".





## VEGETATION AND DIRT REMOVAL IN COMMERCIAL AND PARK STREET





Councillors attended the workshop on the preferential procurement and military veterans policies held at the Council Chamber