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## MUNICIPALITY HOSTS THE ANNUAL TOP ACHIEVERS' AWARD CLASS OF 2023



Mayor Councillor Mzimkhulu Thebolla was joined by Deputy Mayor M Mkhize, EXCO Councillors and Edendale Wards Councillors celebrated the 2023 Matric top achievers. The event held at Thuthuka Hall was in partnership with MTN and attended by the Department of Education and Principals from Msunduzi schools.

The awards were held to honour the Matric class of 2023 in the Msunduzi circuit for their extraordinary commitment to academic excellence, which they attained with perseverance and hard work.

"We are here to celebrate the hard work and extraordinary dedication to academic success of the Pietermaritzburg matric learners class of 2023, and I'm pleased that we are at Edendale today as majority of our learners attend township schools", said the Deputy Mayor Mkhize in his welcome remarks expressing his appreciation.

Mayor Thebolla congratulated the young students for their excellent performance in their academic results and encouraged the young achievers to further their studies and for them to choose local universities, TVET colleges within Msunduzi Municipality, to gain skills to form part of local economic growth.

Madam Speaker Councillor Majola and other stakeholders held an awards ceremony to appreciate top achievers from the class of 2023 in Smero Secondary School, Ward 20.

The Top Achiever's Awards ceremony were held in honour of the Matric class of 2023 in the Msunduzi school circuit for the outstanding performance done by the students, through their dedication and commitment in their academic excellence.

"We are highly appreciative of the dedication conveyed by the class of 2023 and the school principal, staff, SGB and parents for the support they've given to students. We commend the hardwork you've put in achieving such results, as Msunduzi we recognize the academic excellence."

Speaker Councillor Majola also encouraged the class of 2024 to work hard and put in more effort towards their studies to achieve excellent results and uplift the community.





## LEARNERS BENEFIT FROM THE BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN



Mayor Councillor Mzimkhulu Thebolla joined the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Siboniso Duma, at Sukuma Comprehension School in Imbali for the introduction of a contractor and a handover of uniforms at KwanoShezi Community Hall.

MEC Duma continued the programme of the day at KwaNoshezi Community Hall, joined by Umgungundlovu District Mayor Cllr. Zuma and Msunduzi Mayor Cllr. Thebolla to handover school uniforms to 178 school learners within the community. This is part of the Back to School Campaign initiated by SASSA, EDTEA, and the education department, which aims to inspire and encourage learners, teachers, and parents as they prepare for the academic year.

## THE STATE OF THE HEART DIALOGUE



The Municipality's southern library services together with the book behind the awards hosted the state of the heart dialogue at the Bessie head Library to celebrate authors and Valentine's Day as it is a special day on the love calendar. Different authors had the opportunity to share their work and perspectives on relationships, through poetry and books. The positive impact that healthy relationships have on the communities.



## S'THESHA WAYA WAYA PROGRAM ISSUES CERTIFICATES



Mayor Councillor Thebolla and Speaker Majola joined MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison Siphon Hlomuka at the City Hall for the issuing of appointment letters under the S'thesha Waya Waya program.

The program trained thousands of youth in the KZN region and have now been promoted. This event celebrated the receiving letters of employment in their fields.

The Speaker congratulated the S'thesha Waya Waya program for bringing hope to the youth of Msunduzi via skills development. She further emphasised the importance of respect in the workforce, further saying that the program will grow the economy through the skills obtained from the program.

"This is a part of our continued effort to create jobs as we are aware of how important it is for our economy to grow and for those who are disadvantaged to be empowered", said MEC Hlomuka. He said that the government will continue to work with other agencies of government and the private sector to create more jobs.



## LOCAL DRUG ACTION COMMITTEE TACKLES DRUG PROBLEM

The Local Drug Action Committee (LDAC) engagement took place at the Bessie Head Library.

The engagement discussed matters of drug use within the Msunduzi Municipality CBD and the different wards affected by the substance abuse problem. The discussion focused on review of 2023 LDAC meeting outcome as well as the 2024 implementation plan for all members i.e mobilization, information and treatment, assistance to those who have drug problem. The discussion of hotspots wards/ communities to be visited and supported for 2024.

The committee continues to identify possible measures that can be implemented to assist those battling drug addiction including working with rehabilitation centers from private and public sector.





## STRATEGIC PLANNING ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSES TURN AROUND STRATEGY FOR MUNICIPALITY



Municipal Manager Lulamile Mapholoba welcomed senior managers to the Budget and Treasury Business Unit strategic planning meeting which will be running through the day at Msunduzi Athletics Stadium.

The municipal manager was very pleased by senior managers who gathered to deliberate more on financial issues and project challenges ahead of the year. The meeting emphasized the distribution of information and aims to ensure that the implemented mandate is executed effectively.

The session involved elaboration and strategic turnaround of the Municipality's position.

The municipal manager said that the strategic planning engagement provided a more valuable platform for collaboration and the exchange of ideas, ultimately leading to the success of the municipality.





## 365 DAYS FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The Speaker Councillor Majola and other stakeholders launched the 365 Days Fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) programme at Thembalihle Community Hall, Ward 38.

The purpose of this programme was to bring awareness to the community by discussing challenges faced by women regarding the GBV pandemic as well as to educate women of their right to safety and how to protect themselves in their households, work environment and in the communities they live in.

Organizations centred in helping victims of GBV were also presented alongside security measures women need to follow to get assistance.

"Let's call an end to Gender-based Violence and come together to end this fight. Blow the whistle and put an end to GBV", said Speaker Cllr Majola.





## THEMBALIHLE, Q SECTION HOUSE HAND-OVER

The Mayor Councillor Thebolla and his deputy Cllr Mkhize, Speaker Cllr Majola, ward councillor Dlamini and municipal officials handed over houses in Thembalihle, Q section in ward 38.

The Human Settlements Department is currently under a project of building over 800 houses in the area and are handing over those that are ready to the beneficiaries.

"I would like to thank the municipality for building my family this house, we will rest easier knowing that we are safe and no longer have fear of being without a proper structure over our heads," said one of the beneficiaries.





## INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE CONDUCTS WALK-ABOUT IN WARD 1, WARD 12



The Infrastructure Portfolio Committee Chairperson Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mkhize accompanied by ward councillor, Cllr Moseou and other officials conducted an infrastructure walkabout in ward 12. The walkabout was to assess and deal with sanitation issues in the area.



A team led by Chairperson of Infrastructure Portfolio Committee Deputy Mayor Cllr Mkhize was then joined by ward councillor, Cllr Msomi, municipal officials from the water department where they proceeded to ward 1 to access water related challenges in the area. The biggest challenge faced by this ward is that certain areas are unable to access water. "We want all residents to have access to water and decrease the number of water tankers in the area", said the deputy mayor



## THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE THEMBALIHLE COMMUNITY HALL



Mayor Thebolla, Deputy Mayor Mkhize, Speaker Majola, Councillor Dlamini joined by Makhatose, Narasimulu & Associates (PTY) LTD and NAP Holding officially opened the Thembalihle Community hall in Ward 38.

The Municipality appointed Makhaotse, Naramisulu & Associates on the 5th of November 2019 to build the community hall. The local community was employed by means of Labour-Intensive-Construction methods under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The hall and all associated building structures covered by roofing and approximately 970m2 consist of: Entrance area, Stage area, Storeroom areas, Kitchen area, Changing rooms, Female and Male ablutions, 1 cookhouse, 1 guard house, parking area and concrete palisade area.

"We are very proud to announce that this hall made it as one of the finalists in the SAICE National Awards. A remarkable achievement for msunduzi once again, this hall will be one thing we celebrate for a long time. We are committed to do the best always." said Mayor Thebolla.





## DEPUTY MAYOR, WATER DEPARTMENT TEAM RESPOND TO WATER OUTAGE



Deputy Mayor and chairperson of infrastructure portfolio committee, Cllr Mkhize visited Ashburton in response to reports of water outages in this area.

DM Mkhize found the Msunduzi Municipality water department employees already on site, working tirelessly to address the problem.

"Our team has removed the old burst pipe and replaced it with a new one. 80% of the work has been done and we can confidently confirm that our team will be done before end of business day", said DM Mkhize.



## DISCUSSIONS ON RATES, TARIFFS CHARGES

The Municipality council led by Municipal Manager Mapholoba and other stakeholders held a public hearing for the assessment rates and tariffs charges for the period of 2024/2025 at the municipal council chambers.

The purpose of these hearings were to solicit public comments with a view to finalize the draft register of tariffs and charges incorporating the rates, electricity, water, sewer and other services charged for the 2024/2025 budget year.

This is a way the municipality is trying to engage with its stakeholders with regards to the upcoming fees in order to continue solid relations within the city.

The engagements continued for three days for the business, residential and civil society stakeholders.

All interested persons were invited to attend these hearings and offer any comments they may have regarding the proposed tariffs.





## MPAC ENGAGEMENT REPORT ON MUNICIPALITY PROGRESS

The Msunduzi Municipal Public Accounts Committee led by Chairperson Councillor Magubane convened its engagement with the Corporate Services Business Unit; this is part of a series of oversight meetings that were going to be convened to discuss the 2022/2023 annual report and performance of the Municipality, recruitment procedures, employee conduct, the training programs offered by the Municipality for the development of employees etc.

A platform for questions and further discussions on other matters of concern was then provided.

The MPAC meeting also reported on council representation, administration, portfolio and ward committees, and all other structures that report to Msunduzi Municipality Council.

The purpose of this engagements was to ensure that the municipality remains transparent in all aspects of the organisation and its current position.

The Annual Report for 2022/23 was tabled at Council on 31st of January 2024 and is available on the Msunduzi website and satellite offices for public viewing. The next engagement will take place on 20th February 2024.





## INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES SITE VISITS



The Deputy Mayor and Infrastructure Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Cllr Mkhize accompanied by Madam Speaker Cllr. Eunice Majola, ward councillors and municipal officials conducted infrastructure services site visits.

The first stop was at Mafakatini in ward 9, where they inspected the drainage system of the constructed road, due to reports of drainage flooding people's homes. The deputy mayor said more work will be done to address the issue.

The Infrastructure Portfolio Committee delegation, proceeded from the first stop of the day's oversight visits in Mafakatini ward 9 to Baleni road in Ward 40, where the first phase of a road construction is presently underway. The project is expected to provide positive outcomes for the community.





## MINISTERIAL IZIMBIZO, OPERATION SIYAKHA



Minister of Transport Sindi Chikunga, in collaboration with Mayor Cllr Thebolla and various stakeholders, participated in the Ministerial Izimbizo, Operation Siyakha event held at eMcakweni, Ward 4.

The event marked a significant milestone in enhancing transportation and community engagement in Msunduzi. Minister Chikunga, Mayor Thebolla, and other dignitaries gathered to address key issues and initiatives in the transport sector aimed at improving the quality of life for residents in Ward 4.

Mayor Thebolla extended a warm welcome to all the officials from the transport department, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and mutual support in achieving common goals. The City of Choice was honored to host such a pivotal event that focused on advancing transportation infrastructure and services within the community.



As part of the event, the Department of Transport demonstrated its commitment to the well-being of the community by donating bicycles to children of Ward 4. These bicycles will provide vital transportation assistance to children who currently endure long distances on foot to reach their schools. This initiative not only promotes sustainability and accessibility but also showcases the government's dedication to empowering the youth and enhancing educational opportunities.

The Ministerial Izimbizo, Operation Siyakha event at eMcakweni, Ward 4, exemplified a collaborative effort towards building better communities. The Department of Transport, under the leadership of Minister Chikunga, remains committed to fostering positive change.





## DEPUTY MINISTER OF COGTA, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS CONDUCT OVERSIGHT VISITS



Deputy Minister of Cooperate Governance and Traditional Affairs Mr Parks Tau, joined by Deputy Mayor Cllr Mkhize also chairperson of Infrastructure Portfolio Committee together with municipal manager Mapholoba conducted an oversight visit in Ezikhetheni and Copesville in relation to a water reservoir project that is being implemented in the area.

Both budget and schedule were met when building the reservoir. The aim is to make sure areas without access to reticulated water have access to water, currently communities are expected to have portable water in their yards as the project is in the process of installing reticulation of infrastructure.



## DEPUTY MAYOR PARTICIPATES IN CAPITAL CITY MARATHON 2024



The City Of Choice hosted the Capital City Marathon, where Mayor Cllr Thebolla wished all the participants well on their run, with a special mention to Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mkhize who was also participating in the 42km race.



## GAGASI FM BROADCASTS LIVE FROM OUTSIDE CITY HALL



*Mayor Thebolla welcomed Felix & Minnie, the host of the “The Uprising” breakfast show to the City of Choice, where these Gagasi FM presenters were broadcasting live from outside the City Hall.*

## 2024 STATE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS “30 YEARS OF FREEDOM” (DAY 1 & 2)







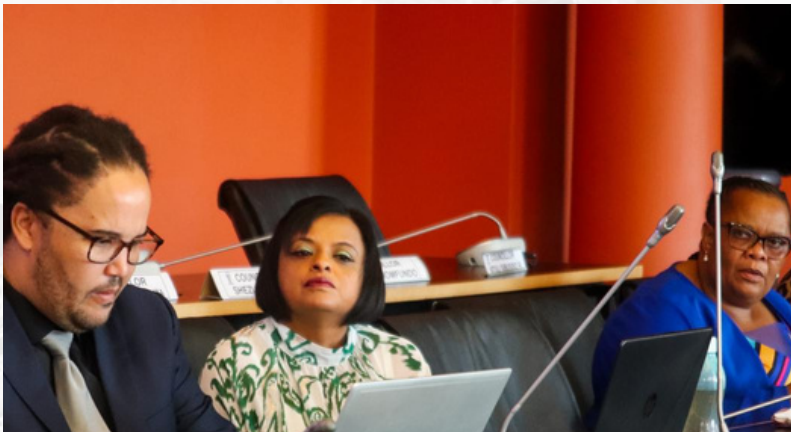
## 2024 STATE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS “30 YEARS OF FREEDOM” (DAY 1 & 2)







## 29 FEBRUARY - FULL COUNCIL MEETING





## SWEETWATERS WETLAND AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE EXPO



The Virtual State Programme in partnership with Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) and Msunduzi Municipality's Area Based Management (Vulindlela) and other stakeholders hosted the Sweetwaters Wetland and Indigenous Knowledge Expo at KaNxamalala Wetland in ward 3.

Virtual State is an organisation that seeks to close the gap between government entities and the community by educating the community on civic and public education.

The purpose of this programme is to educate the community on the importance of wetlands for human prosperity and healthy plant life as the month of February is signified as a month of wetland education.

Presenters were given the opportunity to give an insight on indigenous knowledge on plants and herbs found in these wetlands.



## SERVICE DELIVERY IN PICTURES

