



**Msunduzi**  
Municipality

# The news dispatch

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## FEATURED

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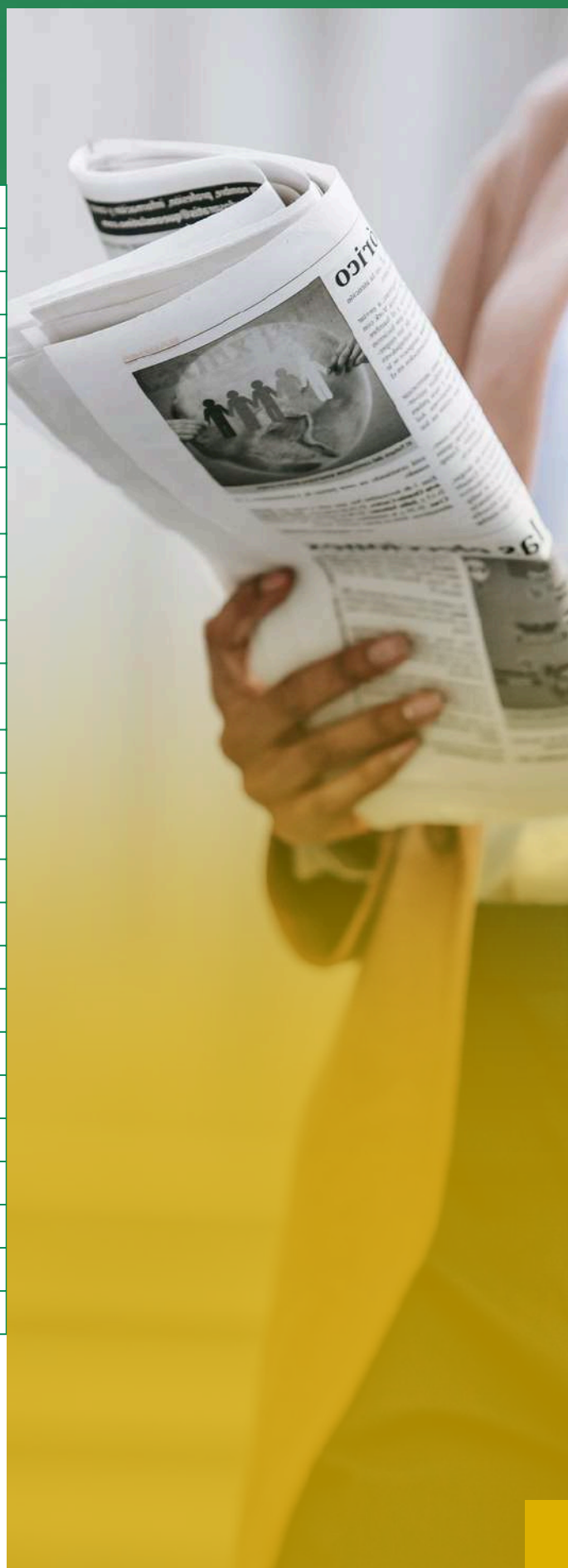
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## Insight from the Mayor: June reflections and a new year of commitment



As we welcome the new financial year, I take this moment to reflect on the strides we have made together and to look ahead with optimism and determination.

The month of June has been a demonstration of what we can achieve when we work together as a City. One of our proudest moments was successfully co-hosting the 98th edition of the Comrades Marathona major international event that brought global attention to Pietermaritzburg. I want to thank all municipal teams and law enforcement agencies for their role in ensuring the event was safe, seamless, and incident-free. We showed the world that Msunduzi is indeed a capable and welcoming City of Choice.

In the spirit of serving our people, we continue to prioritise service delivery at every step. Our teams have been on the ground, intensifying operations to patch potholes, clear illegal dumping sites, fix burst water pipes, and respond to electricity faults. We remain committed to making our neighbourhoods cleaner, safer, and more functional.

During the month, we also responded swiftly to adverse weather conditions that affected some parts of our municipality. Our disaster management teams, in collaboration with relevant departments, acted with urgency to provide support to affected families. We are grateful to the community members, councillors, and partners who lent a helping hand during these difficult moments.

We have also launched a Debt Relief Campaign, giving residents and businesses an opportunity to come forward and settle their municipal debts through flexible arrangements. This is part of our efforts to cultivate a culture of payment for services while acknowledging the economic pressures faced by many. I urge residents to take full advantage of this window. When we pay, we enable the municipality to invest more into reliable services and infrastructure.

As we step into the 2025/2026 financial year, we are implementing new tariffs, and I understand the concerns this may bring. Let me assure you that these increases are aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of our city. They will allow us to upgrade ageing infrastructure, invest in new technology, and deliver services more effectively. We must all play our part by contributing to the system that serves us.

To the staff of Msunduzi Municipality, thank you for your hard work and commitment throughout the previous financial year. I am proud of what you have delivered, and I encourage you to approach this new year with even greater resolve. Let's keep putting our communities first and serve with professionalism and integrity.

To our residents, businesses, and partners thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, let's build a City that we can all be proud of. A City that is safe, clean, responsive, and progressive.

Let us remain hopeful, responsible, and united.

*Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla*  
**Mayor – Msunduzi Municipality**



## Comrades Marathon Send-off

Deputy Mayor Mxolisi Mkhize was given a heartfelt send-off by the Elandskop community as he prepared to take on the Comrades Marathon. The event had begun with a community clean-up, where locals gathered to tidy the area, promoting both environmental pride and unity.

Mkhize, who was set to represent the community in the 90km race, expressed his gratitude, saying, "This marathon is not just about personal achievement, but about showing the strength of our community." After the clean-up, he received warm wishes and encouragement from friends, athletes, and community members.

With the full support of Elandskop behind him, Mkhize was ready to take on the challenge of the Comrades Marathon.







## Comrades Marathon 2025

His Worship Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla launched the starter pistol—officially opening and starting the Comrades Marathon 2025 from the steps of City Hall.

For the first time in the Comrades' history, the race featured two separate starts—a milestone that took place within the City of Choice. All runners were wished a safe, successful, and fulfilling Down Run.







## Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) site visit

The Msunduzi Municipality welcomed a delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for a site visit aimed at exploring potential collaboration in road infrastructure development.

The visit focused on the use of Prostar Paints, a locally manufactured product that was being utilized by the municipality for road marking across Pietermaritzburg. The DRC delegates were particularly interested in understanding how the municipality had integrated this product into its maintenance and urban planning strategies.

As part of the program, municipal officials had accompanied the delegation on a walkabout along Burger Street, showcasing completed road marking projects and sharing insights on application processes, durability, and cost-effectiveness.







## Commuter Transport Engineering (CTE) Durban Business Retention Visit

Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, along with the Business Retention Unit and various other department representatives of Msunduzi, visited Commuter Transport Engineering (CTE) Durban as part of the municipality's business retention programme.

The company primarily provided rehabilitation of railway train coaches, most of which were PRASA assets. Commuter Transport Engineering (CTE) Durban, based in Imbali next to Transnet, had committed to working with the municipality by offering expertise to revitalise railway transport and contributing to the local economy through job opportunities and training programmes for youth in locally based tertiary institutions.

Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla called upon the organisation to continue collaborating with the Msunduzi Municipality to "play a part in the municipality's plans in revitalising the city through programmes such as Operation ILIMA."





## Site visit to Pietermaritzburg Airport

The National Department of Transport conducted a successful site visit to Pietermaritzburg Airport (PZB), with participation from airport management.

The Acting Municipal Manager Neliswa Ngcobo was also in attendance, highlighting the collaborative effort to improve and expand the airport's role in regional development.

The purpose of the site visit to Pietermaritzburg Airport (PZB) was to strengthen partnerships, assess current airport operations, and explore long-term development opportunities aimed at positioning the airport as a key gateway for mobility, tourism, and economic growth in the area. The visit also focused on the importance of increasing public awareness and usage of the airport, ensuring it is recognised as a valuable and accessible public asset that can serve the entire community while contributing to broader regional development goals.

The visit showed a strong interest in making Pietermaritzburg Airport a busy, useful, and welcoming place for everyone.





## Oversight visit to the New England Road Landfill Site and the Fleet Department

A delegation led by the Chairperson of the Finance Portfolio Committee, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with the Acting City Manager, Mrs. N Ngcobo, and Committee members, conducted an oversight visit to the New England Road Landfill Site and the Fleet Department on Doull Road, CBD.

The visit aimed to assess municipal assets, identify those still in working condition, and determine their potential for continued use by the Council, ensuring optimal utilization of resources.







## Opening of the homeless shelter on Doull Road

Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, municipal officials, the Department of Social Development, Inkunzi Isematholeni Foundation, and the Pietermaritzburg Homeless Network have come together to open the homeless shelter on Doull Road.

A joy to the community, the shelter begins with a pilot phase housing 15 women, who will also undergo a structured rehabilitation process aimed at restoring dignity and supporting reintegration.

"We can do anything if we work together," said Deputy Mayor Mkhize, highlighting the power of collective action in addressing social challenges.





## The Contractor Development Outreach Roadshow

The Contractor Development Outreach Roadshow took place at Olympia Hall, Umeda Showgrounds, Pietermaritzburg.

The event was chaired by Deputy Mayor of uMgungundlovu and Chairperson of Infrastructure Services, Cllr Sbongile Mabaso, with Deputy Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, Hon. Sihle Zikalala, leading the program.

Joining them were uMgungundlovu District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Mzi Zuma, Msunduzi Municipality Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Msunduzi Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, Msunduzi Speaker Cllr. Eunice Majola, and other distinguished officials.

The roadshow has been established to empower contractors through masterclasses, networking, and critical infrastructure opportunities.





## Energy Awareness Campaign Schools Competition

The Energy Awareness Campaign Schools Competition took place at Pietermaritzburg City Hall. Hosted by the Msunduzi Municipality, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and HAMSA Consulting Engineers, the event allowed learners to showcase posters and models promoting energy awareness.

The judging and prize-giving ceremony celebrated the efforts of learners, with exciting prizes awarded to top performers in both primary and secondary school categories, including scientific calculators, power banks, and solar lights. Schools were also recognized with Energy Performance Certificates.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Mayor encouraged the youth to take ownership of the city's future in sustainable energy. "We need young individuals that will come up with new ideas. You will learn and come back to this city to make sure we still progress in energy," he said.







## Youth Agriculture Cooperative Empowerment Programme – Kwamnyandu Hall

The Youth Office hosted a successful Youth Agriculture Cooperative Empowerment Programme at Kwamnyandu Hall. The event was marked by a warm welcome from the local izinduna and Councillor Mbanjwa, who made all attendees feel at home.

The programme aimed to inspire and educate the youth about opportunities in farming and livestock, emphasizing that there is life and sustainable income beyond traditional employment. The event highlighted the importance of agricultural cooperatives in creating livelihoods and building a self-reliant generation.

A range of key stakeholders were present to share knowledge, offer support, and provide encouragement, including:

- Msunduzi LED (Cooperatives)
- Msunduzi Municipality LED
- NYDA – Showcasing available opportunities for youth
- Department of KZN Agriculture – Presenting available agricultural services
- An emerging farmer, who shared a powerful story of success and resilience

The programme also featured interactive discussions and engagement, giving youth a platform to ask questions and explore the possibilities within agriculture. The event was a great success, with participants expressing a desire for more initiatives like this that offer hope, guidance, and practical knowledge for a better future.



## Youth Township Economy Summit

The Msunduzi Municipality, led by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, in partnership with the Youth Office, hosted a successful Youth Township Economy Summit at Ashdown Hall in Ward 23. The event aimed to empower local youth by highlighting opportunities for economic development within township communities.

Ward 23 Councillor Phungula welcomed attendees warmly, followed by a purpose-setting address from Mr. Zondi, Senior Manager in the Mayor's Office, who emphasized the importance of youth involvement in economic growth.

Key stakeholders in attendance included ABM, SEDFA, NYDA, EDTEA, and the Business Licensing Unit. They shared valuable insights on how young people can access support to start and grow businesses. Entrepreneur Ms. Neliswa Mtungwa inspired attendees by sharing her journey of building Kota 2 Nice with the help of NYDA and SEDFA.

The summit also featured an open discussion, allowing community members to engage directly with stakeholders. His Worship the Mayor closed the event with encouraging remarks, reinforcing the municipality's commitment to youth empowerment.

The community welcomed the initiative and expressed hope for more events like this to drive real change and opportunity.







## Youth Month Celebration and Awareness Campaign

The Youth Month Celebration and Awareness Campaign led by Msunduzi Municipality's Area-Based Management (ABM) at SACCA Sport Field in Mkondeni ward 37 was more than just an event — it was a lifeline of support for the community.

The programme brought together key stakeholders including African Bank, FNB, Nedbank, Standard Bank, Health Systems Trust, Department of Health KZN, LifeLine, SASSA, and others, all with one purpose: to bring services directly to the people.

From health screenings and social support, each organisation played a vital role in assisting those in need. Residents were able to receive wellness advice, explore banking solutions, and access mental health support – all in one space.

The event created a welcoming environment where people felt seen, heard, and cared for.





## Comoros Cultural Exchange Program - Day 1

The Comoros Cultural Exchange Program came to life at Jambo Arts Centre, where Msunduzi Library Services created a vibrant space for people to connect and celebrate diverse cultures. Many groups performed traditional songs and dances, while others showcased their art, beadwork, and crafts.

There was also a theatre show and storytelling that taught lessons about respect, history, and pride in our roots. The audience enjoyed a colourful and joyful experience.

Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla said, "Your presence today is more than just a visit — it is about African unity, pride, and a celebration of who we are. Today we stand united in our diversity, and this moment strengthens the relationship between our city and our continent."

This program helped people understand and respect each other more. It was a reminder that even though we come from different places, we can learn, grow, and work together through culture and creativity.





## Comoros Cultural Exchange Program - Day 2

The Cultural Exchange Program continued at Elandskop Hall, where the community warmly welcomed the visiting Comoros group. Their performances added a rich international flavour to the event, joining local artists and other African cultural groups in showcasing traditional music, dance, and storytelling.

The event encouraged people from different backgrounds to come together, learn from one another, and celebrate African identity. It was a meaningful day filled with joy, creativity, and pride, reminding everyone of the value of unity through cultural understanding and shared experiences.

"As Msunduzi Municipality, we commit ourselves to these programs to benefit our people through culture, to learn about different cultures, and to form unity," said Madam Speaker, Cllr. Eunice Majola. The program continues to build strong connections between communities and countries, using culture as a bridge to promote peace, friendship, and growth.





## Disaster Management handover



Msunduzi Municipality's Disaster Management team, together with the Gift of the Givers, handed over relief materials to 5 homes in Ward 7 that were impacted by strong winds in the past week. These houses were identified following thorough damage assessments.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Gift of the Givers and Msunduzi's Disaster Management team for their dedicated efforts to support our communities," said Ward Councillor B. Zuma. "Although not every household has received aid yet, we are committed to assisting all affected families."





## Disaster relief to the Vulindlela community in Ward 7

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr M Thebolla, accompanied by Acting City Manager, Ms. N Ngcobo, Acting Deputy Municipal Manager: Community Services, Mr. M Zuma, and Disaster Management officials, held a crucial briefing session with representatives from Old Mutual.

The meeting preceded the handover of humanitarian relief to the Vulindlela community in Ward 7, who were recently affected by a disaster. This gesture underscores the municipality's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities in times of need.





## Disaster relief to the Vulindlela community in Ward 6

In Ward 6, Vulindlela - The humanitarian relief effort continued with a visit from Ward Cllr K Madonda and Msunduzi Municipality Disaster Management, accompanied by Old Mutual and Social Development Services - where about 54 residents benefited.

Cllr Modondo expressed heartfelt gratitude to the corporate and public sector partners for their support during this challenging time. He encouraged the continuation of such initiatives to ensure ongoing assistance to those in need within the Vulindlela community.



The day concluded with a meaningful visit to Ward 3's Nxamala Hall, where 29 food parcels were distributed to community members affected by the recent disaster.

The Disaster Management Department extends its sincere gratitude to valued stakeholders, including Old Mutual, KZN COGTA CDW, Department of Social Development Services, Red Cross, and the municipal Area-Based Management teams, for their crucial support.

As we say,

**"Disaster Management is everyone's business."**





## On Trial by Dr. Vuka Shabalala

Msunduzi Municipality Library Services proudly launched the **On Trial** book by Dr. Vuka Shabalala, celebrated as the personification of South African Jurisprudence. The prestigious event was held at the Bessie Head Library Auditorium.

Dr. Ntombela, Manager of Bessie Head Library, warmly welcomed Dr. Vuka Shabalala, his family, members of the judiciary, invited guests, and colleagues. In his address, he highlighted the significance of the occasion, emphasizing the honour of witnessing the official launch and celebrating the author's remarkable achievement.

The author, Dr. Vuyo Shabalala Mthethwa, took the audience on a captivating journey through the origins of *On Trial*, sharing the inspiration behind the book and the process of its creation. Members of the judiciary added rich context, taking guests down memory lane with reflections on Dr. Shabalala's legal career and his impactful days in the courtroom.

The event was both enlightening and celebratory, marking a milestone in legal literature and honoring a distinguished figure in the legal field.







## Ward 33 Public Meeting

The Msunduzi Municipality hosted a successful Ward 33 Public Meeting at the Manor Flats Opening Grounds Sable Flats Soccer Field.

Community members gathered in numbers to engage with representatives from the Housing and Finance Departments. The event provided a valuable platform for residents to raise their concerns, ask questions, and gain clarity on various municipal services affecting their daily live.

CLlr Suraya Reddy welcomed Ward 33 residents and thanked them for attending. She said the day was for them to raise any issues. "We are here to listen and help," she said.

The departments present actively listened and responded to the issues raised, offering practical guidance and on-the-spot assistance where possible. Matters such as housing applications, rental disputes, and financial support options were addressed.







## Community Engagement at Buffer Community Hall

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, and Ward 13 Councillor, Cllr G Mncwango and Deputy Municipal Manager, Mr S Mchunu accompanied by various municipal service departments engaged with the Buffer community regarding service delivery concerns at the Buffer Community Hall.

The Mayor announced that a dedicated team would be deployed to Ward 13 over the next two weeks to address these issues. He also outlined available assistance options, including; indigent applications, payment arrangements and the new rebate program.

Emphasizing the importance of adhering to municipal policies, the Mayor warned against tampering with municipal services, which could result in the reversal of debt write-offs. This community engagement aimed to enhance service delivery and provide support to residents.





## Send-off dinner for the Midlands Wanderers soccer team

Honourable MEC for KZN Sports, Arts, and Culture (DSAC) Mntomuhle Khawula hosted a send-off dinner for the Midlands Wanderers soccer team - ahead of the ABC Motsepe League National play offs.

Amongst the dignitaries at the helm of hosting this send-off was our Honourable Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, KZN DSAC Head of Department (HOD) -Dr Charity. T Sifunda, Mayor of uMgungundlovu district Mzi Zuma, Msunduzi Municipality Madam Speaker Cllr Eunice Majola, KZN Chairperson of the South African Football Association (SAFA) Mr K Ngwenya, President of SAFA in uMgungundlovu Region Mr Musa Zondi, Vice president of KZN Sport Confederation (KZNSC) Mrs Ntombela, team managers and coaches.

"We would like to congratulate Midlands Wanderers on their stellar performance during the 2024/25 season of ABC Motsepe League. We wish them well as they go to represent KZN at the National play offs. Without putting pressure on them - they ought to know - on their shoulders are the hopes of the people of this city, the 1 million people of this district and the 13 million people of KZN. " said Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla.







## Podcast Workshop

The Msunduzi Municipality Youth Office, in partnership with American Spaces, successfully hosted a podcasting workshop at the Bessie Head Library.

The workshop was conducted by Nontokozi Nazo and aimed to inspire and encourage young people to start their own podcasts. Attendees were educated on the basics of podcasting, including how to get started, practical tips, and personal experiences shared by facilitators. The session also emphasized that podcasting can be more than just a hobby—it can be a career path and a source of income.

The event was well-received, and organizers have promised more workshops in the near future to continue empowering youth with digital and media skills.





## Special documentary screening

Deputy Mayor Mxolisi Mkhize joined KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film representatives, along with tourism learners from Zibukezulu Technical High School, for a special screening of a documentary paying tribute to the life and legacy of the late Mbongeni Ngema.

The screening took place at the historic Manaye Hall in Imbali, where the community gathered to celebrate the late Mbongeni Ngema's contributions to South African arts and culture. The moving documentary was produced by Pietermaritzburg-based filmmaker Lindani Mbense, whose work captured the spirit and impact of Ngema's enduring legacy.

Deputy Mayor Mkhize praised the dedication of local creatives and underscored the importance of preserving South Africa's rich artistic heritage. He highlighted initiatives that support youth involvement in arts and tourism, noting the event as a powerful example of how storytelling can inspire future generations.





## Engagement session with industrial stakeholders

uMngeni Water Services (UWS), a subsidiary of uMngeni-uThukela Water (UUW), in collaboration with Msunduzi Municipality, hosted a strategic engagement session with industrial stakeholders operating within the city.

The engagement focused on identifying collaborative approaches to enhance water efficiency, promote wastewater reuse, and fast-track community-inclusive rapid response projects.

During the session, stakeholders were presented with initiatives aimed at supporting industrial operations, while UWS reaffirmed their commitment to delivering sustainable and cost-effective water services through strong public-private partnerships.

"Effective collaboration between industry and local government is essential to strengthening water service delivery," said Ms. Sithembile Magwaza, Chief Financial Officer of UWS.





## Operation Ilima

As part of Operation Ilima, our city-wide clean-up and bylaw enforcement campaign—Msunduzi Municipality has intensified its efforts to remove illegal outdoor advertising materials across the City. This is a crucial part of our commitment to restoring order, ensuring public safety, and upholding municipal bylaws.

The unauthorised display of advertisements not only clutters and degrades the visual environment of our city but also poses safety hazards to road users and results in revenue loss for the Municipality. As such, all illegal signage is being removed by our teams, with the costs recovered from the responsible parties, as per the Municipal Outdoor Advertising Bylaws.

This crackdown is one of many high-impact interventions under Operation Ilima, which also targets illegal electricity connections, unauthorised structures, unclean environments, and non-compliant businesses.

