



**Msunduzi
Municipality**

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FEATURED

EDITORS

NTOBENKHO MKHIZE
ANELE MAKHANYA

CONTENT CREATORS

SIDUDUZIWE MADONDA
NOSIPHO CALUZA
SASHA RAMCHUND
NOXOLO J. MAZIBUKO

PHOTOGRAPHERS

ANDILE M. MAHLABA
SASHA RAMCHUND
THANDEKA DLAMINI
HLELELWE W. MKHWANAZI
SAMUKELO MBANJWA

WRITERS

AMANDA. NGCOBO
PHUMLA S. MDLETSHI
NOXOLO J. MAZIBUKO
SANELISWE MKHIZE
BONGANI A. NYEMBE

COMPILED BY SASHA RAMCHUND

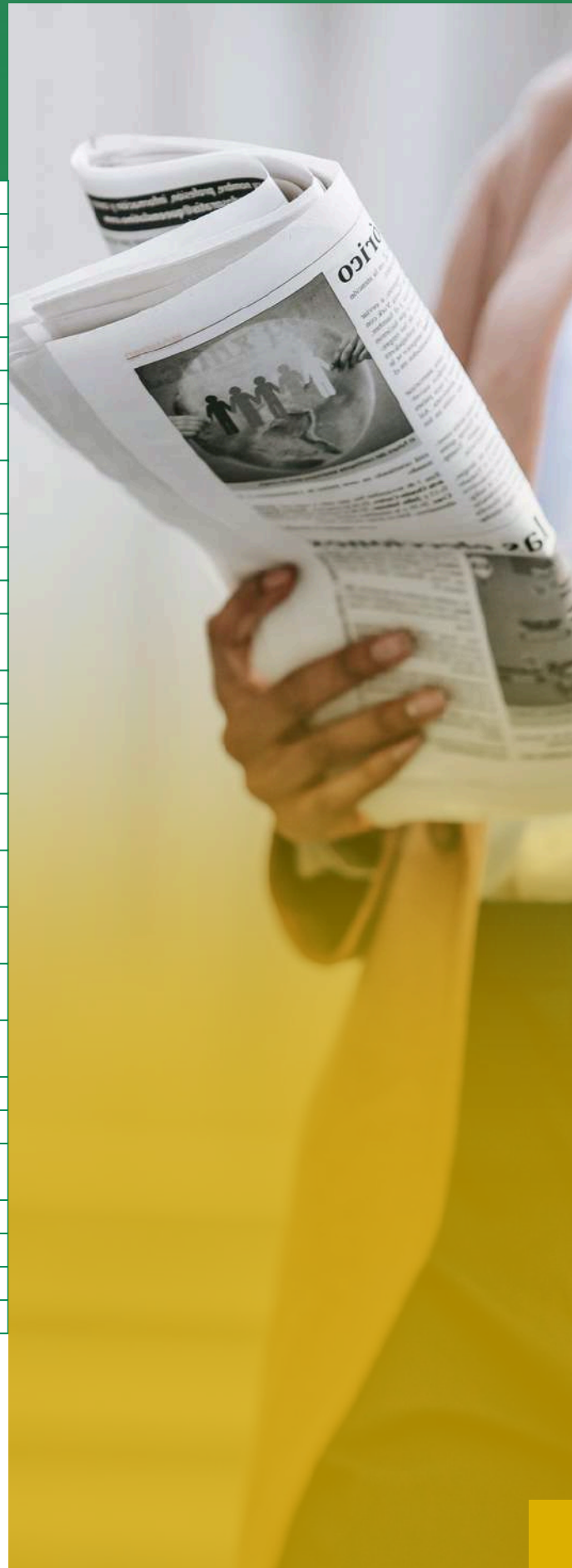
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

NOSIPHO CALUZA
SASHA RAMCHUND

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Insight from the Mayor: Closing November 2025



As we conclude the month of November, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all residents of Msunduzi and to our dedicated municipal staff. November has been a month that truly reflected the spirit of active citizenship, collective responsibility, and democratic participation.

Across our city, we witnessed communities mobilising themselves in support of the national campaign against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). Even without attending the formal municipal events, residents took it upon themselves to gather, raise awareness, stand in solidarity with survivors, and echo the national call to end GBVF. Your actions demonstrated that the fight against GBVF belongs to all of us. Your voices, your unity, and your willingness to take initiative reflect the heart of our democracy.

At the same time, our municipality continued to serve residents diligently. Through our Ilima operation, we responded decisively to the outcry from the community at Ematsheni, addressing long-standing service delivery concerns and reaffirming our commitment to restoring dignity in all areas of Msunduzi. We appreciate staff who worked tirelessly on the ground to ensure that residents' concerns were not only heard but acted upon.

Our Qoqimali revenue collection and disconnection also continued throughout the month, helping residents understand their responsibilities, access assistance, and pay their bills as required since this helps the municipality function and continue to render services. This work is essential in strengthening our financial sustainability and improving service delivery across the city.

November also marked important G20 engagements, where the municipality participated in discussions that highlight our region's role in broader developmental conversations. These engagements ensured that Msunduzi remains informed, included, and aligned with national and global development priorities reflecting our commitment to transparent, people-centred governance.

To our staff: thank you for your professionalism, dedication, and continued service. To our residents: thank you for participating, mobilising, raising your voices, and shaping the direction of our municipality through democratic engagement.

As we enter December, let us carry forward this spirit of unity, accountability, and shared responsibility. Together, we can build a safer, stronger, and more responsive Msunduzi.

Warm regards,

Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla
Mayor – Msunduzi Municipality



National Sanitation Month kick-off

By Phumla Mdletshe Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe

Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize welcomed Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation Sello Seithloho to Msunduzi Municipality as he launched National Sanitation Month with a visit to the Darvill Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs) in Pietermaritzburg on Monday, 3 November 2025. uMgungundlovu District Deputy Mayor Cllr Sbongile Dlamini-Mabaso and other stakeholders also attended the event, which kicks off a national campaign promoting dignified sanitation, innovation in wastewater management, and environmental and economic benefits.

The Deputy Minister highlighted the role of advanced WWTWs in driving innovation, noting that Darvill—operated by uMngeni-uThukela Water—is a national model featuring technology pilots that convert wastewater and green waste into compost for local farmers. He will also lead a stakeholder engagement session with uMngeni-uThukela Water, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Duzi Turf to strengthen partnerships supporting research and circular economy initiatives.

“At a strategic facility like this, you invest in sustainability,” said Seithloho, praising Darvill as one of the country’s best-performing plants. He noted that over 40% of South Africa’s WWTWs are dysfunctional, posing serious health and environmental risks—underscoring the importance of facilities like Darvill in setting national standards.

During a presentation, Mr. Eric Nene of uMngeni-uThukela Water explained that the upgraded Darvill plant, completed four to five years ago, has supported visible growth in the city. The facility has expanded from treating 27 megalitres per day in 1958 to 100 megalitres today, serving all waterborne areas of Msunduzi. Classified as a Class A facility, it operates 24/7 with fully certified controllers and maintains 100% compliance with Regulation 3630. Designed for 100 megalitres but capable of peaking at 150, Darvill achieved 94.56% effluent compliance last financial year and has already reached 95.18% from July to October this year.



National Sanitation Month Kick-off

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr. Sello Seitlholo's visit concluded with site inspections at both Darville Wastewater Treatment Works and Duzi Turf.

The Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, also joined the Deputy Minister and the delegation, showing a great gesture of support and pride in hosting this visit. His presence highlighted the City's commitment to maintaining its reputation for excellence in water management, with Darville being one of the most recognised and high-performing water treatment plants.



Street Traders Empowered Through Capacity-Building Workshop on Bookkeeping, CIPC, and E-Licensing

By **Ntobeko Mkhize**

Photos: **Ntobeko Mkhize**

In a concerted effort to strengthen and empower the informal trading sector, the Msunduzi Municipality, in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development Finance Agency (SEDFA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), has launched a two-week capacity-building workshop for 100 street traders operating within the municipality.

The workshop is designed to equip informal traders with practical business management skills—with a strong focus on bookkeeping, Company and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) registration, and E-Licensing. The initiative seeks to enhance business compliance, accountability, and sustainable growth among street traders, enabling them to operate more effectively within the formal economic framework. Many informal traders face challenges such as limited access to business training, difficulties in maintaining accurate financial records, and a lack of understanding of compliance and registration processes. This workshop directly addresses these challenges by offering hands-on training and practical demonstrations, simplifying complex procedures and empowering traders with knowledge they can apply immediately in their businesses.

Through this intensive two-week programme, participants will gain:

- Fundamental bookkeeping skills, including recording income and expenses, tracking stock, and managing cash flow.
- Step-by-step guidance on CIPC registration, highlighting the benefits of business formalization.
- Training on the E-Licensing system, allowing traders to apply for and manage their trading licenses online.
- Information on available business support services and funding opportunities offered by SEDFA, EDTEA, and the Msunduzi Municipality.
- Networking opportunities with fellow traders and government officials to share experiences and build collaborative relationships.

By the end of the workshop, participants will be better equipped to maintain accurate records, comply with business regulations, and operate within a structured and transparent business environment. This initiative forms part of the municipality's broader efforts to formalize and empower the informal economy, ensuring that small-scale entrepreneurs have access to the tools, knowledge, and support needed to thrive. By building trader capacity, the programme contributes to inclusive local economic development and aligns with Msunduzi Municipality's commitment to creating a resilient and sustainable business environment for all.



Msunduzi Scores Another Win in Job Creation

By Anele Makhanya

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

Msunduzi Municipality has marked another milestone in driving economic growth as beneficiaries of the Municipal Employment Initiative (MEI) Phase 2 gathered for a celebration of progress, empowerment, and opportunity. Welcoming guests, Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize commended the initiative, noting that when the City works together with purpose, “we can change lives and build a sustainable future for our people.”

The event was attended by EDTEA MEC Rev. Musa Zondi, Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Speaker Cllr Eunice Majola, Cllr Sokhela, Cllr Phahla, Chief Director for LED Mr. Ranveer Persad, and Municipal Manager Mr. Mndebele, all gathering to witness this meaningful step toward community upliftment.

Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla highlighted the success and impact of MEI Phase 2, celebrating how it has transformed lives, strengthened local businesses, and stimulated economic activity across Msunduzi. He congratulated beneficiaries for their commitment, describing MEI as “a beacon of hope and a testament to what is possible when government, business, and community work hand in hand.”

The Mayor shared inspiring success stories, including:

- Zakhele Mtungwa (Even Driving School) – received a vehicle, expanded operations, employed four instructors, and invested in a Dyna truck.
- Ntokozo Duma (Luluntu Sanctuary) – gained a mobile cold room, created five jobs, and added a water purification machine.
- Noluntu Ngcoya (D-Chem Group) – expanded detergent production, created fifteen jobs, and entered the retail market.
- Neliswa Mtungwa (Kota2Nice) – received catering equipment and grew her business, employing three additional workers.

These stories, he noted, reflect how the initiative is changing livelihoods and strengthening local entrepreneurship.

In his keynote address, MEC Rev. Musa Zondi praised Msunduzi Municipality for championing MEI, affirming the 7th Administration’s commitment to programmes that empower communities and drive local economic growth.

The event concluded with the official handover of working equipment to beneficiaries, met with loud applause and heartfelt appreciation. In closing, Cllr Zethu Sokhela, Chairperson for Sustainable Development and City Enterprises, reminded attendees: “This does not end here. As the Municipality, we continue to help build a community that works.”

The MEI Phase 2 event reaffirmed Msunduzi’s commitment to creating sustainable livelihoods, supporting entrepreneurs, and promoting inclusive economic growth across the City of Choice.



Promoting Positive Values Among Learners at Nobanda Primary

By Phumla Mdletshe

Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa

Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, accompanied by the Ward 2 Councillor and various stakeholders, visited Nobanda Primary School as part of an awareness programme aimed at promoting character building and positive values among learners.

The programme emphasised the importance of doing the right thing at the right time, demonstrating good morals and values, and avoiding negative influences. Deputy Mayor Mkhize encouraged learners to make responsible choices, show commitment to their education, and develop into upstanding members of society.

The session served as an inspiring reminder to the young learners of the value of discipline, respect, and integrity in shaping a successful future.



The 5th Annual Book Behind the Awards Ceremony

By **Sasha Ramchund**

Photos: **Andile Mahlaba**

Mhlengi Classic Mafu, in partnership with Msunduzi Municipality and various stakeholders, proudly hosted the 5th Annual Book Behind the Awards, an esteemed event dedicated to celebrating and honouring the outstanding achievements of writers who continue to inspire through the power of words. The ceremony recognised excellence across a diverse range of literary genres — from fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children’s literature, to inspirational and cultural works that uplift communities and preserve heritage.

Delivering the welcoming address, His Worship the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the organizers and participants of this impactful event. He highlighted the importance of literature in promoting cultural preservation, community building, and national identity. His address reaffirmed the municipality’s ongoing commitment to supporting the arts, storytelling, and local authors, recognizing literature as a tool that both heals and inspires society.

Award categories ranged from Best Relationship/Romance Book, Best Motivational Book, and Best Poetry Book, to Best IsiZulu Book, Best Sesotho Book, and Best Female and Male Authors — along with Honorary Awards recognising exceptional literary contributions and partnerships.

Notably, Msunduzi Library Services won the Honorary Award for Literary Support and Partnership, which was proudly received by the Deputy Mayor and the Msunduzi Library Services team, acknowledging their continued efforts in promoting literacy, community engagement, and access to knowledge.

Throughout the evening, a vibrant lineup of performances were featured, including collaborations with GheezyVibe Arts Academy, Dorh Mfayela, Mthafrika, Nomanzi, Athandwa Zondi, Many Moore, and Nomarashiya, celebrating the unity between music, poetry, and storytelling.

Msunduzi Municipality extends warm congratulations and best wishes to all the winners and nominees for their continued dedication to inspiring others through their creative work.

Through vision, perseverance, and an unwavering belief in the power of storytelling, dreams become attainable for all who dare to create, and by preserving our stories, we ensure that the spirit of our culture and identity continues to shine for generations to come.





Msunduzi Welcomes G20 Outreach and DDM Stakeholder Engagement

By Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi
Anele Makhanya

Photos: Bongani A. Nyembe
Andile Mahlaba

Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Mr. Kenny Morolong, together with Deputy Minister Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, today led the G20 Outreach Programme and District Development Model (DDM) Stakeholder Engagement hosted at the Msunduzi Athletic Stadium in Pietermaritzburg.

The session forms part of ongoing national engagements aimed at raising public awareness about South Africa's G20 Presidency and strengthening coordination across the three spheres of government through the District Development Model.

Msunduzi Municipality, as a key partner has proudly hosted and supported the engagement in collaboration with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS). Earlier in the week, Msunduzi also supported a G20 public activation at the New Taxi Rank, where residents were educated on the importance of the G20 Summit and its relevance to local development priorities.

Through its involvement, Msunduzi continues to demonstrate its commitment to fostering intergovernmental cooperation, civic education, and inclusive development. The Municipality values this partnership as part of collective efforts to build a capable, responsive, and people-centred government.





Msunduzi Strengthens Partnership with Local Taxi Associations to Drive Public Transport Transformation

By Ntobeko Mkhize

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

Msunduzi Deputy Mayor and Chairperson of the Infrastructure Services Portfolio Committee, Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, led an engagement with local taxi associations to reignite discussions for the implementation of the Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN).

The purpose of the session was to engage meaningfully with the affected taxi associations and to outline the next steps toward the implementation of the IPTN project. This engagement marks another important step in achieving the participation of local operators in the shared journey to transform the public transport landscape of Msunduzi through the Integrated Public Transport Network.

The IPTN programme forms part of a broader national initiative to modernize public transport in South African cities. For Msunduzi, it represents a collective ambition to deliver safe, affordable, and reliable transport for all residents, while creating opportunities for local economic participation. The taxi industry has been and remains the backbone of the city's mobility system. The Municipality's approach recognises this vital role and seeks to ensure that operators are partners in this transformation.



Assessment of Water and Road Challenges in Ward 11, Dambuza

By **Andile Mahlaba**

Photos: **Andile Mahlaba**

Infrastructure Portfolio Committee Chairperson Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, Cllr. Sanele Zuma, Cllr. Nkosinathi Masoeu, and the Department of Transport officials visited Ward 11 in Dambuza in the area past Draai Hoek to assess water and road challenges.

On one of the affected roads past the Draai Hoek bus stop, soil erosion has spilled partially onto the main road resulting in only one lane being able to be utilized in the small segment. The land mass being deposited onto the main road is the result of overflow of water from residents' homes that are erected on municipal land over municipal infrastructure that has become difficult to access for maintenance purposes.

The team also investigated the road ahead just before the bridge where the levels are uneven. Together with officials from Department of Transport it was determined that for a long term solution a team of engineers will have to investigate the soil composite below that would determine what measures to employ to maintain the bridge's long term integrity. As a temporary solution the road is to be resurfaced and leveled hopefully before shut down of industry over the December Holidays and long term plans to begin to take shape at the start of the new year.

Residents are reminded to follow proper procedures by consulting the Municipality with regards to building any kind of structure on any land to ascertain that they are not building over municipal infrastructure.



MPAC visit to the New England Road Landfill Site

By Samukelo Mbanjwa

Photos: Sasha Ramchund

The MPAC chairperson Cllr Magubane led a delegation of this committee and officials to the New England Road Landfill Site to conduct a site inspection. The visit formed part of ongoing efforts to monitor operations, strengthen compliance, and ensure that waste management services are running efficiently. During the inspection, the team assessed current conditions, identified challenges, and discussed practical solutions to improve the overall functioning and safety of the site. The municipality remains committed to maintaining clean, sustainable, and well-managed waste facilities for the benefit of all residents.





National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Provincial Week

By Nompumelelo P. Mthembu

Photos: Anele Makhanya

Under the theme “Taking Parliament to the People”, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) officially commenced its Provincial Week from 18–21 November 2025, taking place across the uMgungundlovu District Municipality.

During the programme held today at the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, KZN Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli reaffirmed the province’s commitment to accountability, cooperative governance, and community-centred service delivery.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Deputy Mayor Mxolisi Mkhize, and Municipal Manager Mr SF Mdebele, were in attendance where the Mayor outlined the ongoing progress in building a viable municipality, with a clear focus on strengthening the delivery of basic services, including roads, electricity, water, sanitation, and refuse removal.

The NCOP Provincial Week aims to address the challenges affecting basic service delivery across provinces. As part of the programme, oversight visits will be conducted on key municipal infrastructure and human settlements projects within the uMgungundlovu District.

Throughout the week, the NCOP will continue to play an important role, in bridging the gap between national and provincial interventions and local community needs. A community consultation session will also take place on Thursday at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall, giving residents an opportunity to engage directly with public representatives.



NCOP Provincial Week – Oversight Visit to Woodlands Primary School

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Andile Mahlaba



As part of the ongoing NCOP Provincial Week, a delegation led by the MEC for Public works Mr Lukas Marthinus Meyer, the Head of Department (HOD) Mr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo, the Chief Director for Infrastructure, the Deputy Director-General, and local councillors, conducted an oversight visit to Woodlands Primary School led by Ward 32 Councillor Cllr. Garth Middleton.

At Woodlands Primary School, the delegation conducted a detailed assessment of the ongoing infrastructure project, which includes upgrades to classrooms, sanitation blocks, and administrative facilities. Officials engaged with the school leadership to understand the circumstances that resulted in the project's temporary stoppage. It was confirmed that the project can be reassessed and reinstated, with steps to be taken to minimise delays and ensure that the construction work resumes as efficiently as possible.

This intervention will help ensure that learners, educators, and the surrounding community benefit from safer, improved school infrastructure that supports quality teaching and learning, while contributing to long-term upliftment in the area.



NCOP Provincial Week - Oversight Visit to IPTN Project

By Sanelisiwe Mkhize

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

The Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, led an oversight visit alongside Members of the Provincial Parliament, including Hon. M. Billy Provincial Whip of the KZN NCOP delegation, Hon. L. Mhlongo Member of the NCOP delegation, Hon. M.B. Gwala Chief Whip of the KZN Legislature, and Hon. O.B. Kunene Deputy Chair of Chairs at the KZN Legislature, to assess progress on the Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) Project.

Construction is currently underway on a dedicated road corridor designed specifically for the IPTN bus system. This upgraded route will serve as the main passage for buses once the system becomes operational. The new road layout, including bridge infrastructure, is being built to support safe, efficient, and reliable bus movement helping ease traffic congestion and providing a faster transport option for the community.

Through ongoing engagement, the Msunduzi Municipality has developed an inclusive and equitable transport model designed to accommodate all stakeholders. The system will support the coexistence of taxis and buses, ensuring a balanced and collaborative approach to public transport.

Mayor Thebolla emphasized the municipality's commitment to delivering a functional system soon, stating:

"Our commitment is that by December 2026, the first bus should be on the road ensuring that no transport sector is left behind and that community needs remain at the centre of our work."



NCOP Provincial Week - Stakeholder Engagement Session

By **Andile Mahlaba**

Photos: **Andile Mahlaba**

Msunduzi Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with members of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), the Provincial Legislature, Speakers, and Councillors, gathered at Pietermaritzburg City Hall for an important Stakeholder Engagement Session.

The session provided a platform for community representatives to raise concerns directly with public officials, reflecting a strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making. It enabled collaborative problem-solving, bringing together municipal leaders, the NCOP, and community members to discuss challenges, share insights, and propose solutions to enhance service delivery.

In addition, the engagement strengthened oversight, ensuring that key priorities and interventions are effectively monitored across the province. By fostering direct interactions between national, provincial, and local spheres of government, the NCOP continues to promote a people-centred approach to governance, supporting more responsive and sustainable service delivery.





Indonesian Cultural Group Visits Msunduzi Library in Spirit of Unity and Friendship

By Noxolo Mazibuko

Photos: Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

The Msunduzi Library Services had the honour of hosting a special visit from a group of Indonesian ladies who have been touring South Africa over the past few days. Their visit formed part of a cultural exchange initiative aimed at strengthening friendships, learning from one another, and celebrating the beauty of diversity.

His Worship, the Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thobella, together with Speaker, Cllr. Eunice Majola, attended the gathering and played a key role in welcoming the group. They both delivered warm and heartfelt messages, expressing deep appreciation for the visitors choosing Msunduzi as part of their South African journey.

The Mayor and Speaker highlighted the importance of cultural exchange how it helps communities understand one another, build unity, and appreciate different traditions. The Indonesian visitors showcased elements of their culture, including traditional attire, dances, and expressions of heritage, creating a lively and beautiful atmosphere.





Msunduzi Municipality Employees joined the National shutdown, saying Enough is Enough!

By **Anele Makhanya**

Photos: **Andile Mahlaba**

Msunduzi Municipality employees stood together and declared that they shall not be silenced. Staff took part in a peaceful walk from Gallwey Lane, marching along Pietermaritz Street with powerful placards carrying messages against GBVF.

The walk ended at City Hall, where employees raised their placards high, united in saying “Enough is Enough!” They observed a moment of silence before returning, while many other staff members across the Municipality wore black and purple in support of the national shutdown.

Together, we raise our voices. Together, we say **NO** to GBVF.



Day 1 of the Strategic Planning Workshop for Umgungundlovu District Municipality's Local Traditional Houses

By Lungelo Sithole

Photos: Lungelo Sithole

Umgungundlovu District Municipality's Mayor, Cllr Mzi Zuma, officially welcomed Traditional Leaders, Amakhosi, and Local Municipality representatives to a 3-day strategic planning workshop at Alpine Heath Resort in the Drakensberg, KwaZulu-Natal.

Hosted in partnership with the Department of Traditional Affairs and South African Local Government Association, the workshop aims to strengthen relationships between municipalities and Traditional Leaders. Key highlights include a presentation by Msunduzi Municipality on interventions in Traditional Leadership areas, fostering collaboration and effective local governance.



Day 2 of the Strategic Planning Workshop for Umgungundlovu District Municipality's Local Traditional Houses

By Lungelo Sithole

Photos: Lungelo Sithole

Sector Engagement presentations from KZN Provincial COGTA, LED, and Batho Pele were followed by updates from local municipalities within the district - with Msunduzi Municipality giving a thorough update and recommending that the strategic engagements be encouraged and institutionalised between the municipal leadership and Amakhosi.

Traditional Leaders shared their insights, emphasizing the need for local government support in leading their communities. Highlighting that collaboration is still key!



An Evening of Recognising Excellence in Local Traditional Leadership!

By Lungelo Sithole

Photos: Lungelo Sithole



Msunduzi Municipality was proudly represented as amakhosi received well-deserved recognition for their outstanding contributions.

This took place on Day 3 of the Umgungundlovu Local House Strategic Planning session, which concluded with a prestigious Excellence Awards ceremony held at the breathtaking Alpine Heath Resort in the Drakensberg.

The event honoured Traditional Leaders and Local Municipalities for their leadership, dedication, and commitment to serving their communities. Their continued efforts play a vital role in strengthening local governance and uplifting our people.

These awards not only celebrate excellence but also inspire ongoing service and leadership in our communities.

“Sithi halala, Ndabezitha!”

Msunduzi Marks 16 Days of Activism with Candle-Lighting Ceremony

By Noxolo Mazibuko

Photos: Noxolo Mazibuko

In a solemn display of unity and remembrance, the Msunduzi community gathered to honour the countless lives lost to gender-based violence.

The Msunduzi Municipality's Area-Based Management, in collaboration with Msunduzi Library Services, formally commenced this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide with a dignified candle-lighting ceremony held at the City Hall.

To all victims and survivors, we extend our deepest respect and compassion. Your strength, your truth, and your courage are not forgotten. We stand with you, we hear you, and we remain committed to building a society where every individual is safe, protected, and valued.





16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children

By Hlelelwe Mkhwanazi

Photos: Samukelo Mbanjwa

Msunduzi Municipality, in partnership with Lifeline Pietermaritzburg and various government departments, successfully hosted a 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children event.

This gathering aimed to unite the local community of Msunduzi in raising awareness about gender based violence, creating safe spaces for open dialogue, and empowering community members with knowledge and support.

During the programme, speakers shared valuable insights on the emotional, social, and economic impact of violence, while survivors and community members were given an opportunity to speak about the challenges they have faced. The event also highlighted the importance of reporting abuse, supporting victims, and working together to build a safer and more compassionate community.



Humanitarian Relief Materials to Jika Joe Informal Settlement

By Amanda Ngcobo

Photos: Andile Mahlaba



On 26th of November 2025, at about 01h00, Jika Joe informal settlements, located in Ward 33 within the municipal area of Msunduzi Municipality, experienced a structural fire incident, causing extensive damage to some informal dwellings, displacing 35 households.

The Msunduzi Disaster Management Centre (MDMC) coordinated the provision of humanitarian relief to assist affected households to cope during this difficult period, and as efforts to restore the basic human dignity of all victims. Gift of the Givers, in collaboration with the Msunduzi Disaster Management, handed over basic humanitarian relief to 35 households affected by the Structural Fire incidents at Jika Joe Informal Settlement.

Mrs. T Ntuli from Msunduzi Disaster Management expressed gratitude to the Gift of the Givers for continued partnership and support to response of disaster-related incidents throughout the municipality. In addition to the distribution, the Disaster Management Centre also conducted an awareness campaign for the affected families. The awareness campaign was intended to educate communities on disaster risks, increasing safety and resilience through campaigns, informal education, and participatory learning.



Msunduzi Gears Up for a Safe, Festive, and Service-Driven Holiday Season

By Amanda Ngcobo

Photos: Andile Mahlaba

The Executive Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality convened a media briefing where he addressed members of the media and the public on the progress being made in service delivery, under the banner of Operation Ilima and the broader declaration of 2025 as the Year of Massive Service Delivery.

The Mayor reaffirmed that this declaration was not just a statement of intent, but a call to action that has resulted in visible changes across the City of Choice.

Through Operation Ilima, multidisciplinary municipal teams have been deployed across wards to clear illegal dumping, repair roads, restore street lighting, clean stormwater drains, maintain parks and public spaces, and improve the overall condition of the city's infrastructure. These efforts form part of a deliberate programme to restore dignity, safety, functionality and pride in communities.

The Mayor also highlighted the strengthening of municipal systems through Operation Qoqimali, which focuses on improving revenue collection and reinforcing a culture of payment for services. This has helped stabilise the municipality's finances and ensure that critical service delivery programmes are properly funded.

Looking ahead to the festive season, the Mayor provided assurance that the municipality is ready. Essential services, emergency teams, waste management and public safety units are on high alert and prepared to respond to increased activity in the city. The CBD and key public spaces have been prioritised for intensified cleaning, maintenance and monitoring to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

In closing, the Mayor called on all residents, businesses and community organisations to work together with the municipality by being responsible, protecting public infrastructure and supporting efforts to keep the city clean, safe and functional.

Msunduzi is rising. Renewal is underway. Service delivery is in action.



The Final Stand Against Gender-Based Violence

By Bongani A. Nyembe

Photos: Sasha Ramchund

Deputy Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality, Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, together with the Mayor of uMgungundlovu, Cllr. Muziwokuthula Zuma, and other respected dignitaries, welcomed the Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Ms. Phumzile Mgcina, who led the programme against Gender-Based Violence at the Copesville Community Hall.

Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize emphasized the importance of educating people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds about Gender-Based Violence, which has recently been declared a national crisis in South Africa.

The fight against Gender-Based Violence continues, and we must all work collectively to build a society where everyone can thrive without fear of violence or oppression. By speaking out and supporting one another, we can break the silence and create a brighter, safer future for all.



Operation iLima: Transforming the City for the Better!

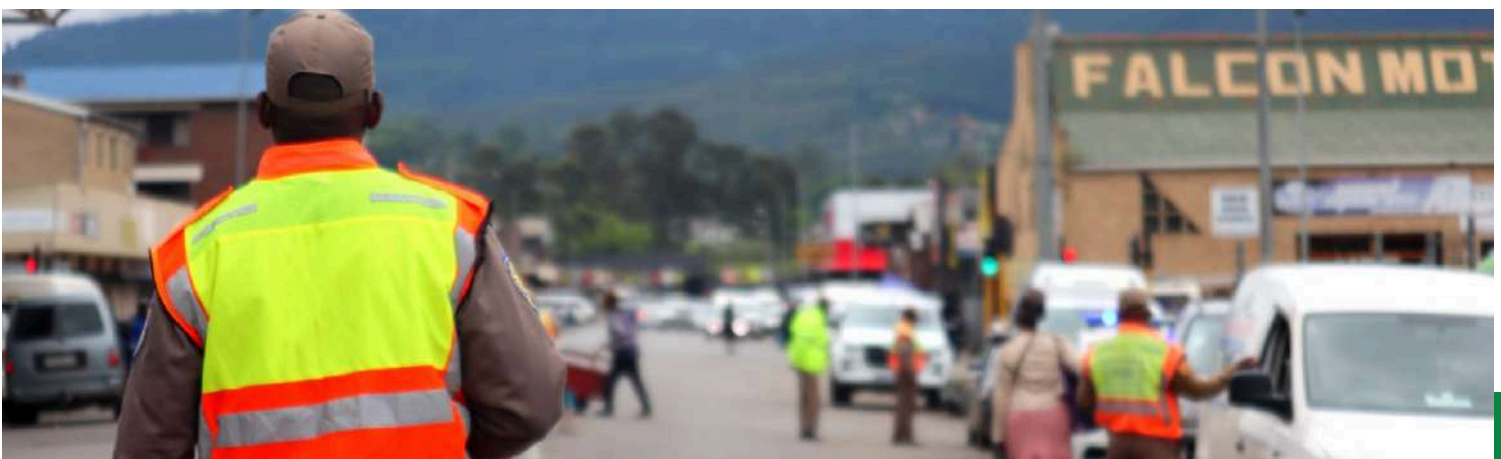
By Communications team

Photos: Communications team

Msunduzi Municipality continued its ongoing iLima service delivery campaign, with Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Municipal Manager Mr. Mdebele, and DMM for Community Services Mr. Zondi leading teams through some of the city's busiest and most affected areas.

The operation focused particularly on the lower parts of the city (eMatsheni) and Mandela Park—zones that have required intensive cleaning and maintenance. Teams worked across multiple public spaces, including: the Taxi Rank, main roads around eMatsheni, areas near stores, trading spots used by street vendors, Mandela Park, lower parts of the city (eMatsheni), and blocked drains across key streets.

As part of the citywide clean-up programme, crews continued clearing litter, sweeping streets, removing waste, and unblocking drains to improve hygiene and prevent flooding. Msunduzi Municipality reaffirms its unwavering commitment to keeping the city clean, safe, and well-maintained for all who live, work, and trade within it.

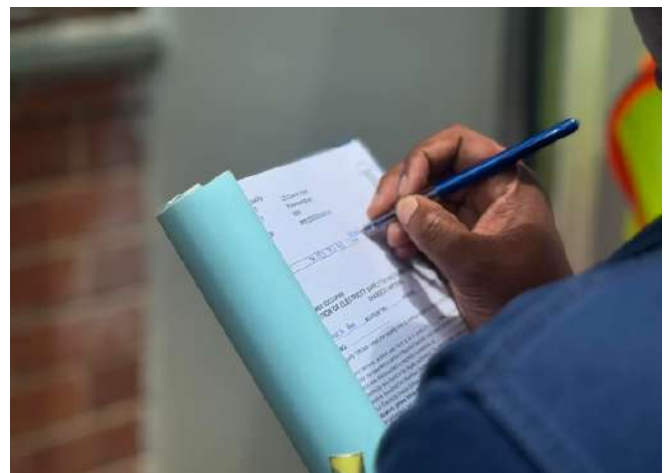


Operation Qoqimali

Captions and Photos by Communications team

Msunduzi Municipality continues to intensify its revenue enforcement efforts through Operation Qoqimali, led by Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Nelisiwe Ngcobo. Municipal teams actively disconnected water and electricity services at properties with long-overdue accounts, illegal connections, and cases of meter tampering. These actions followed numerous reminders issued to account holders to settle their municipal bills or make suitable payment arrangements.

Throughout the campaign, the Municipality reinforced its commitment to accountability and sustainable service delivery, urging all residents, property owners, and businesses to pay their bills on time. Operation Qoqimali aims to address illegal connections, recover outstanding debts, and ensure that consumers take responsibility for the services they use, helping protect the revenue required to maintain reliable services for the entire community.





Service Delivery Efforts

