



Msunduzi
Municipality

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Insight from the Mayor



At the start of this month, I had the privilege of welcoming two distinguished leaders who will play a central role in turning around Msunduzi Municipality.

Firstly, we welcomed our new Municipal Manager, Mr. Felani Mdebele. He is a seasoned public servant with years of experience in local government and a proven record of leadership. His appointment gives us renewed confidence that we can strengthen our systems, improve accountability, and restore stability in our administration.

We also welcomed Dr. Michael Sutcliffe, who joins us as a governance expert. Dr. Sutcliffe brings with him invaluable knowledge and a wealth of experience in strengthening governance and service delivery. Together, his guidance and Mr. Mdebele's leadership signal a new chapter for Msunduzi — one where we are determined to rebuild trust and deliver services effectively.

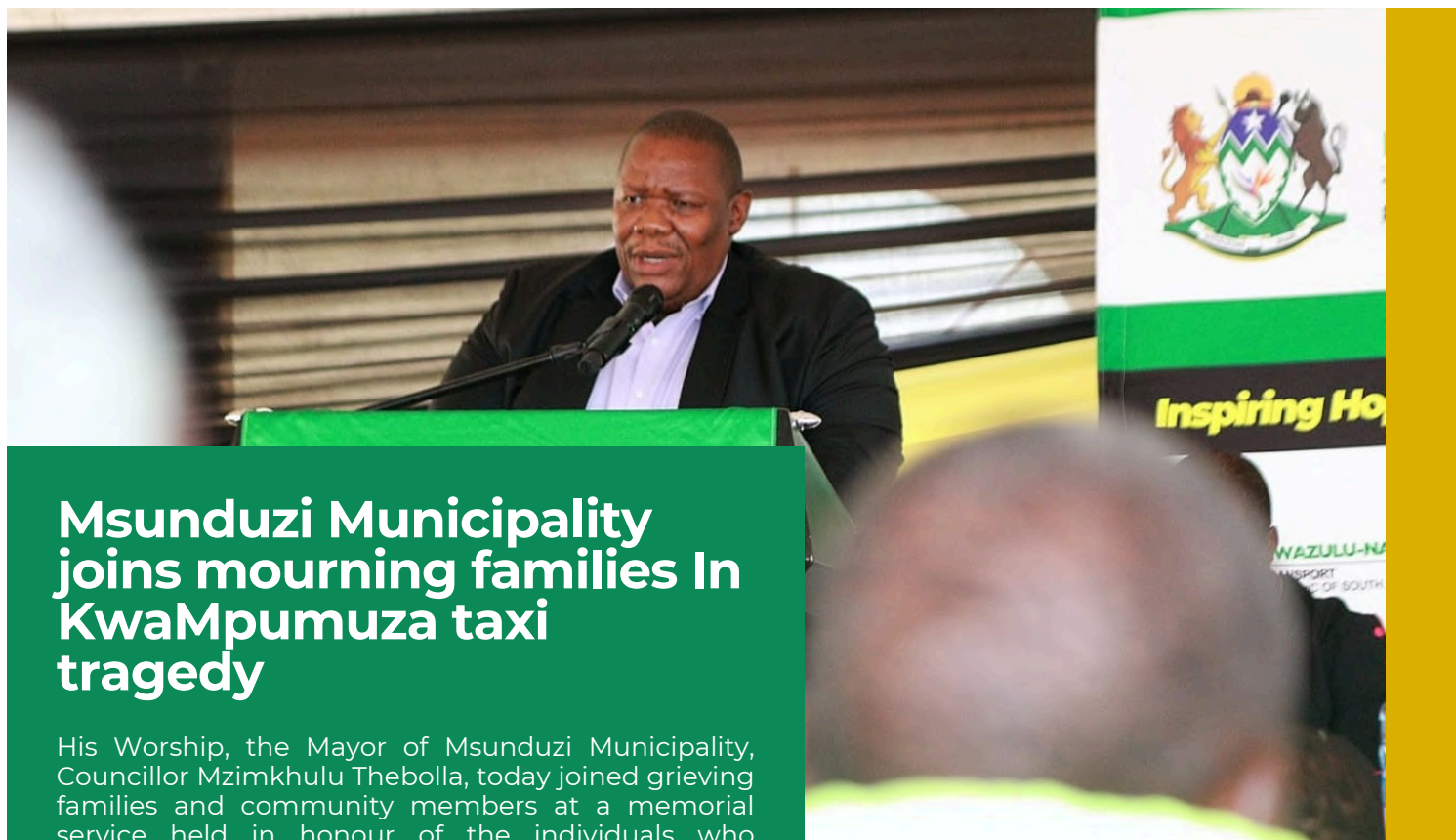
This new leadership comes at a time when we are working hard to recover from a prolonged strike that unfortunately disrupted services, especially waste collection. While the right to protest is enshrined in our democracy, I must emphasise that disruptions that deprive communities of essential services cannot be tolerated. Our residents depend on us, and we must ensure that nothing stands in the way of their basic needs being met.

I commend our management team and dedicated employees who worked tirelessly under difficult circumstances to contain the impact of the strike and restore services. Their resilience reflects the kind of commitment we need to move forward.

As Mayor, I want to reassure the people of Msunduzi that we are fully committed to a path of renewal. We are turning the corner. Our focus is on stabilising our operations, improving governance, and ensuring that service delivery remains at the heart of everything we do.

The journey ahead will not always be easy, but with strong leadership, dedicated staff, and the support of our communities, we will rebuild Msunduzi into a city that works for all.

Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla
Mayor – Msunduzi Municipality



Msunduzi Municipality joins mourning families In KwaMpumuza taxi tragedy

His Worship, the Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality, Councillor Mzimkhulu Thebolla, today joined grieving families and community members at a memorial service held in honour of the individuals who tragically lost their lives in a horrific taxi accident earlier this week. The accident occurred along Shayamoya Road in Ward 01, KwaMpumuza, under Msunduzi Local Municipality.

The Mayor, accompanied by local councillors and officials from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and the entire community. "We are heartbroken by this tragedy," said Mayor Thebolla. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families during this difficult time. We extend our deepest sympathies to all who have lost their loved ones."

Five people were confirmed deceased, including a young child, while others including the driver remain in hospital. One child is still in intensive care. This devastating event has cast a shadow over the KwaMpumuza community, prompting swift response and support from key stakeholders.

The Mayor extended appreciation to the MEC for Transport, Mr. Siboniso Duma, and his department for the support provided to the victims' families. Additionally, the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) has committed to covering the full funeral costs of the victims a gesture the Municipality deeply acknowledges.

"As government, working with the district and transport authorities, we are committed to walking this painful journey with the affected families," the Mayor added.



Recognition of Msunduzi Municipality staff participating in the Comrades Marathon 2025

Msunduzi Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla held a small ceremony to honour the Msunduzi Municipality staff members who participated in the 2025 Comrades Marathon, including the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize.

As a token of appreciation for proudly flying the Msunduzi flag high at this prestigious event, participants received small gifts, which included Msunduzi-branded tracksuits.

Mayor Thebolla congratulated the participants and noted that future engagements would be held to explore how the Municipality could better support them in preparation for upcoming races, ensuring a smoother experience before and after the event.

Congratulations once again to all our participants!



Msunduzi Municipality welcomes the appointment of Dr Michael Sutcliffe

The Msunduzi Municipality welcomes the appointment of Dr Michael Sutcliffe as Governance Expert, announced today by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Reverend Thulasizwe Buthelezi.

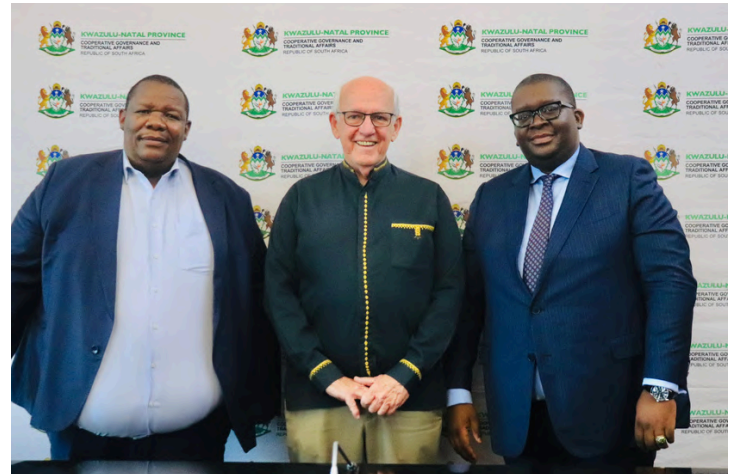
The Municipality embraces the intervention as part of the Section 154 support being provided by the Provincial Government.

“As Msunduzi, we remain fully committed to providing services to our communities guided by legislation. Like many municipalities across the country, we experience challenges, and we welcome the support we are receiving from the MEC and the Provincial Government. We also warmly welcome Dr Sutcliffe, whose expertise in governance and turnaround strategies is well recognised. We believe that working with him will make a significant difference in strengthening our service delivery and restoring investor confidence in our City,” said Mayor Thebolla.

The Municipality acknowledges Dr Sutcliffe's vast experience, including his successful leadership of eThekweni Municipality as City Manager for over nine years, as well as his recent contributions to service delivery turnarounds in the province.

Msunduzi Council views this intervention as an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of sustainable solutions that will place the Municipality on a stronger path of governance, financial discipline, and improved service delivery.

The Mayor further reiterated the Municipality's commitment to working hand-in-hand with the MEC, the Provincial Government, and Dr Sutcliffe in the interest of the people of Msunduzi.



Msunduzi Municipality Recognised for Outstanding Contributions to Community Chest



The Msunduzi Municipality has been recognised for its continued commitment to social responsibility and community upliftment at the Community Chest's 65th Anniversary Celebration.

Municipal employees were honoured with the Gold Award in the Certificate of Appreciation category as Top Donors in the Workplace Giving Programme. This award celebrates the generosity of Msunduzi staff who, through monthly contributions from their own salaries, have consistently supported the initiatives of the Community Chest. The award was proudly received on behalf of staff members by the Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality.

In addition, Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize received a special award for his extraordinary personal effort in running the Comrades Marathon to raise funds for the Community Chest. His recognition highlights the power of individual leadership and dedication to making a difference in the lives of others.

These accolades reflect the Municipality's strong partnership with the Community Chest and its dedication to supporting programmes that make a meaningful impact in areas such as education, health, community development, and poverty alleviation.

Through both the collective contributions of staff and the personal commitment of the Deputy Mayor, Msunduzi Municipality continues to lead by example in building a caring and united City of Choice.

Msunduzi Hosts Successful Golden Games for Senior Citizens

The Msunduzi Municipality Mayor's Office successfully hosted the Golden Games at the Athletics Stadium, an initiative aimed at promoting Active Ageing among older persons aged 60 years and above.

The event was warmly welcomed and officially opened by His Worship, the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, who expressed his gratitude to all in attendance. In his opening remarks, he extended his heartfelt wishes, hoping all participants would have a fulfilling and enjoyable day.

The games commenced with great enthusiasm and energy. A number of senior citizen clubs took part, including:

- Masisizane
- Masimbonge
- Simunye
- Egcebeni
- Izimpisi
- Asizenzeleni
- Qulakabusha
- Nhlanzeko
- Sincengimpilo
- Senzokwethu
- Sinamuva Senzokuhle

The event was further supported by key stakeholders including the Department of Social Development, Department of Health, and MI7, who played a significant role in ensuring the success of the day.

The atmosphere was electric with friendly competition as participants gave their best, proudly representing their teams and striving to earn valuable points. The sense of camaraderie, fun, and sportsmanship was felt throughout the stadium.

The event was a resounding success, and the organizers are looking forward to the next phase of the Golden Games.





Arbour Arch Centre opens doors to the community

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla, and Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, attended the official opening of the Arbour Arch Centre in Athlone, which also saw the launch of a new Checkers store, creating employment opportunities for over 100 people.

This landmark development is more than just a retail space it represents a significant boost to the local economy. As businesses open their doors, they bring with them jobs, supplier contracts, and increased foot traffic, all of which stimulate economic activity in the surrounding areas.

The Arbour Arch Centre is expected to attract further investment and development, contributing to long-term economic growth and sustainability. It opens new opportunities for entrepreneurs, small business owners, and service providers, making it a key driver in transforming our city into a vibrant hub for commerce and community life.

"We would like to congratulate Andrew and his property group on this new development, which is in line with our vision of making this a city for doing business, planning a future, and calling home," said Cllr. Thebolla.



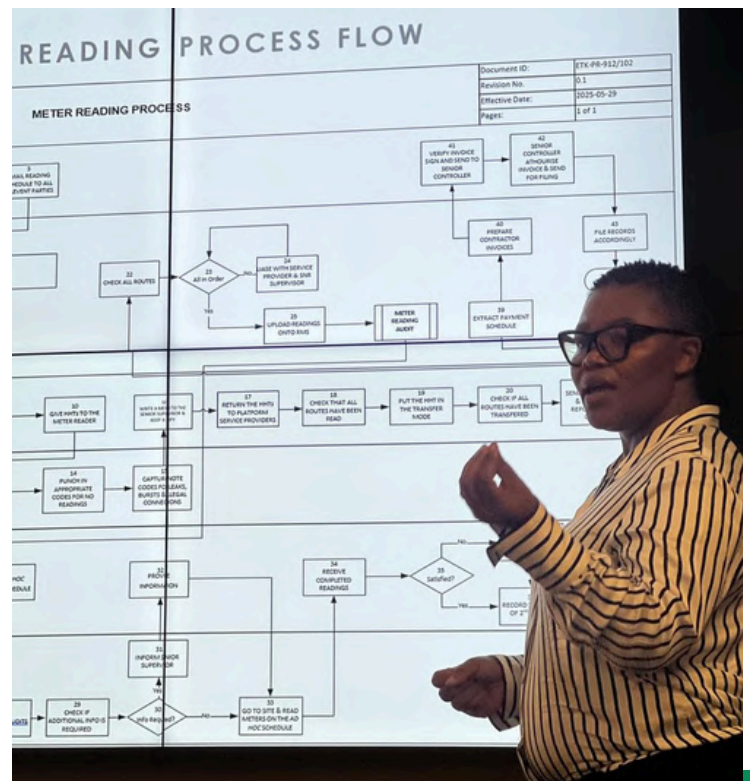
Msunduzi Municipality Benchmarks with eThekweni Metro

To enhance their operations and ensure financial stability, officials from Msunduzi Municipality visited eThekweni Municipality for a benchmarking session recently. The meeting was held on 14 and 15 August at the Disaster Management Boardroom. The aim of the Msunduzi Municipality visit was for the delegation to gain valuable insight and be better empowered about arrears management, as well as the rates clearance process flow, debt reduction strategy, and billing system. The delegation also learnt more about how eThekweni conducts meter readings, its e-service portal, credit control and debt collection call centre monitoring, and indigent management. Also forming part of the learning exchange was exploring the City's electricity vending system, call centre monitoring, water disconnection and reconnection, and customer accounts management.

eThekweni Municipality Deputy Director of Revenue Management Banele Bavu said the City also benefitted from the visit. "We have had benchmarking sessions where we also acquired knowledge from Msunduzi Municipality. It is always profitable to learn from your peers," said Bavu. She explained to the Msunduzi delegation that the City currently bills 920 000 customers monthly for utility services, with 370 955 customers receiving their bills via email. The eThekweni customer overview information revealed the Municipality's diverse customer base, with over 450 000 prepaid meter customers and more than 310 000 credit/post paid accounts.

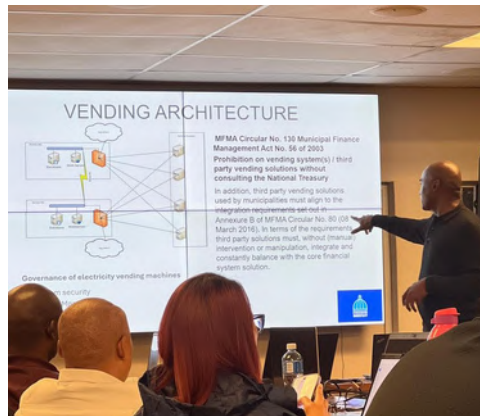
The Municipality also noted the increasing adoption of smart meters, with over 160 000 currently in use. The City's mobile app was also lauded as a key tool for improving customer engagement. The app provides a convenient platform for residents to pay bills, get the latest Municipal news and updates, and report issues such as power outages or water leaks by simply taking a picture and uploading it. Msunduzi Municipality

Deputy Chief Financial Officer Nelisiwe Mvelase-Ngcobo appreciated the informative session. "We have acquired sizable knowledge that will assist us to augment service delivery and financial health. eThekweni has provided us with valuable insights into the complexity of running a large municipal utility and the importance of having robust systems and strategies in place," said Mvelase Ngcobo. She said on their list of priorities is to implement development charges and a debt impairment policy, together with addressing challenges on the billing cycle of customers. "We will continue to foster a mutual relationship with eThekweni for the benefit of Msunduzi residents," she concluded





Msunduzi Municipality Benchmarks with eThekweni Metro - Day 2





Henley Dam Bailey Bridge Unveiled!

Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, Ward 4 Councillor Zondi, Inkosi uZondi of Inadi, and community leaders joined Minister of Transport, Mr Siboniso Duma, for the official opening of the new 42-metre, 5-ton Bailey Bridge at Henley Dam.

This milestone project, part of the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme, was prioritised following fatal drownings in the area. It will greatly improve safety and access for residents of Ward 4.

During construction, the project created work opportunities for 74 local community members, boosting both livelihoods and the local economy.

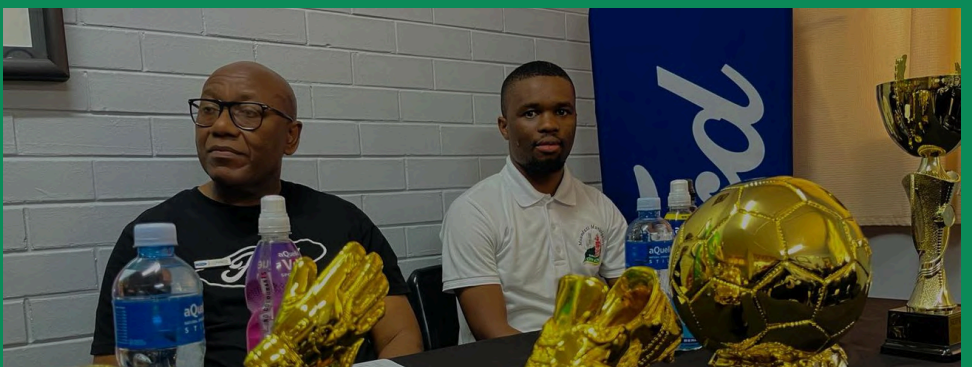


Launch of the City of Choice High Schools Soccer Tournament

Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize officially launched the City of Choice High Schools Soccer Tournament at Carter High School, in collaboration with the Youth Development Office and several key stakeholders including NMI Ford Pietermaritzburg, Midlands EMS, African Bank, and Timeless Events. The event, coordinated by Poobie Naidoo, marks the kickoff of the larger City of Choice High Schools Super Cup Tournament.

Learners from various high schools representing both suburban and township communities will compete on a united platform, promoting inclusivity, talent development, and community spirit. Additional support was provided by aQuellé, Truds Snacks, and SuperSport High School.

In his address, Deputy Mayor Mkhize emphasized the importance of investing in school sports, describing Pietermaritzburg as “the home of sport” and expressing hope that the tournament will produce future soccer stars. The tournament not only aims to showcase young talent but also fosters unity, discipline, and opportunities for youth in sport.





City Of Choice Super Cup Tournament

The Super Cup tournament kicked off at Carter High School. The atmosphere was electric as teams took to the field, giving it their all from the very first whistle. There was no holding back, every team fought with heart, passion, and determination, leaving everything on the pitch in pursuit of victory. As the tournament progressed, the competition only intensified. Teams battled fiercely for a place in the semi-finals, with fans on the edge of their seats, passionately cheering from the sidelines. The energy was kept high, thanks to the support of sponsors aQuellé and Truda Snacks, who kept everyone refreshed and energized throughout the event.

The following schools brought incredible spirit and talent to the tournament: Carter, Haythorne, Linpark, Wartburg, Howick, Alex, Ixopo, Sobantu, ML Sultan, Eastwood, St Nicholas

As the tournament moved into the semi-finals, the stakes were raised even higher. Teams pushed themselves to the limit, fighting hard for a coveted spot in the final showdown. The passion and tension were palpable as every match delivered unforgettable moments of skill and teamwork. In the final match, Sobantu Secondary School dominated with an outstanding performance, securing a 5-0 victory to claim the Under 19 Championship. Their display of strength, precision, and unity left no doubts about their deserving win. In the Under 16 final, Eastwood emerged victorious after a dramatic penalty shootout, edging out their opponents 6-5 in a nail-biting finish that kept spectators holding their breath until the last kick.

From the opening match to the final whistle, the Super Cup tournament showcased incredible talent, sportsmanship, and school pride. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all participating teams, coaches, supporters, and organizers for making the tournament a memorable success.

The Youth Radio Talent Search Competition

The Youth Radio Talent Search Competition recently concluded with great success! This exciting initiative was proudly hosted by the Msunduzi Youth Office in partnership with uMgungundlovu FM, and generously sponsored by Momo MTN.

We were proud to celebrate the incredible talent that emerged during the competition, and are pleased to announce our top three winners:

- 3rd Place: Thumelo Dlamini
- 2nd Place: Nonhle Nzimande
- 1st Place: Sandiswa Shange

Congratulations once again to our winners and all participants who brought energy, passion, and creativity to the stage. The competition showcased remarkable young voices and left a lasting impression on audiences and judges alike.

Participants expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunity and shared their excitement for future initiatives of this kind. The Msunduzi Youth Office remains committed to creating more platforms that uplift and empower local youth talent.





Job Preparedness and Information Sharing Session at Ward 17

The Msunduzi Municipality Youth Development Centre recently hosted a Job Preparedness and Information Sharing Session at Ward 17, bringing together a range of stakeholders such as Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Msunduzi Skills Centre, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Masa, Department of Social Development and uMzansi Youth in Business.

The purpose of this session is to groom young people with valuable information related to employment, including skills development and available opportunities across various sectors. Stakeholders guided the youth on how to apply for jobs within different industries and encouraged them to remain proactive in their job search efforts, including applying for opportunities online. In addition, the session encourage entrepreneurship and motivating young people to consider starting their own businesses even if they have not yet secured formal employment.



Building Sustainable Businesses: Msunduzi Youth Centre and Library Host NPO Workshop



The Msunduzi Municipality Youth Centre Development, in collaboration with Msunduzi Library Services, hosted a workshop for all non-profit organisations and community stakeholders.

The purpose of the workshop was to share valuable information on how to run and market a business effectively. It aimed to help stakeholders learn how to turn products into profit, grow their organisations, and access funding opportunities. The session also focused on equipping participants with the skills and knowledge needed to operate successful and sustainable enterprises.

Mr. Sandile Zondi, Senior Manager at the Political Office, expressed his gratitude to all those who participated. He noted that, as a Municipality, it meant a great deal to invite the community to engage, share their knowledge, and respond positively to the invitation.



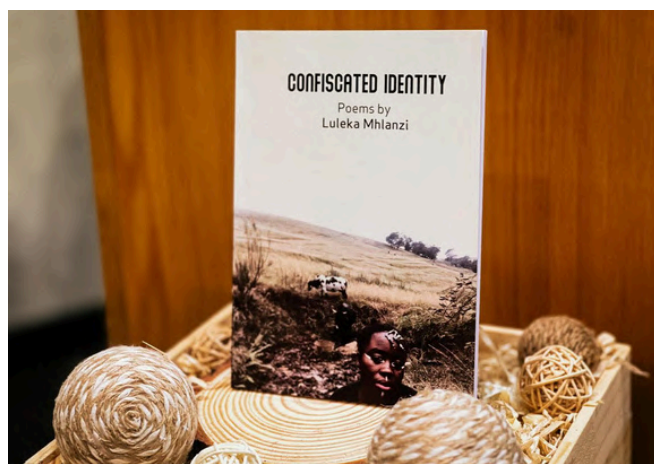


Bessie Head Library Hosts Powerful Book Launch for Confiscated Identity

The Msunduzi Bessie Head Library hosted the launch of *Confiscated Identity*, a powerful poetry book by Luleka Mhlanzi. The event took place at the Bessie Head Auditorium 1 and featured live performances by other poets, a Q&A session, and a talk about the importance of reading for writers and how language shapes our identity.

Luleka Mhlanzi shared her personal journey, including how she was raised by a single mother, began writing and reciting poems in the early ages of her life, and what inspired her to become a poet. Her story added deeper meaning to her poems and showed how her life experiences shaped her writing.

The event highlighted how poetry can express both personal and shared experiences, leaving the audience inspired and reflective. It also gave people a better understanding of the deep emotions and ideas behind the book. Mhlanzi's poems explore identity and reveal the important role poets play in society.





A Celebration of Words: Nelly Shozana Inspires at Library Event

Msunduzi Municipality Library Services, in partnership with Writing Centric Publishers, Iziko Art Company & Publishers, and The Book Behind Awards, celebrated author Nelly Shozana, who has written an incredible 20 books. The celebration was held at the Library Services Auditorium Basement.

The celebration of Nelly Shozana's remarkable achievement was filled with joy and emotion. She began her writing journey in 2017, with her first book titled *Dismissing Excuses*. Since then, she has authored 20 books, in addition to working as a ghostwriter and book reviewer. During the event, Nelly took the audience through her literary journey, painting vivid memories that allowed everyone to picture the depth and beauty of her works.



SPAR KZN Women's Race 2025

The SPAR KZN Women's Race 2025 ignited the Oval with unstoppable spirit. The energy was electric on Sunday, the 17th of August 2025, as the SPAR KZN Women's Race 2025 took off in spectacular style.

Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize fired up the crowd and officially launched the race, sending thousands of participants into motion. The day unfolded as a powerful celebration of unity, resilience, and unstoppable spirit in honour of Women's Month.

From the first stride to the final finish, the atmosphere was filled with excitement, determination, and joy as women of all ages and backgrounds came together to make the day unforgettable.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and to every participant who proudly crossed the finish line; each step was a victory!



Relaunch of the Cell C Liberty Mall Store

The Cell C Liberty Mall Store in Pietermaritzburg, the only Cell C store in the city, has been successfully relaunched as a newly refreshed telecommunications retail destination.

The grand re-launch event was attended by His Worship, the Mayor, Cllr M Thebolla, who expressed support for the local business. Franchise owner, Mr. Bashen Padayachee, thanked the mayor and attendees for their presence, and the mayor reciprocated with a message of support and cutting the ribbon to officially mark the occasion.

The mayor noted that businesses that develop and rebrand their image make the city look good and assured that the city would support and encourage such milestones.





Operation Siyahlola: Restoring Dignity Through Housing

During the Ministerial Oversight Visit for Operation Siyahlola, His Worship the Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla led the Msunduzi Municipality delegation, which included Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, Speaker Cllr. Eunice Majola, Cllr. Zethu Sokhela (Chairperson for Sustainable Development & City Entities), Cllr. Nokuthula Msimang (Chairperson for Community Services), and the Ward 29 Councillor.

They were joined by the Minister of Human Settlements Ms. T. Simelane, MEC Mr. Siboniso Duma, and uMgungundlovu District Mayor Cllr. M. Zuma to officially launch the newly built homes in Ward 29.

This initiative formed part of the April 2022 flood recovery efforts, providing quality, safe housing to restore dignity to affected families. More than just houses, the project stood as a commitment to hope, resilience, and a better future for the community.



Msunduzi Municipality Welcomes Road Maintenance Materials from MISA

The Mayor Councillor Mzimkhulu Thebolla, together with the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, today received a significant contribution of road maintenance materials from the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) to support the City's ongoing pothole patching and road rehabilitation programme.

The materials handed over include:

Cold premix (25kg bags) – 147
Bitumen Emulsion SS60 (200L drums) – 9
Crusher dust (tons) – 23
G2 material (10m³ load) – 1
Cement (50kg bags) – 70
6,7–13mm crush stone (tons) – 18
KRS 65 CAT spray (210L drums) – 7
MC 30 Prime (210L drums) – 5

Speaking during the handover, MISA's Provincial Programme Manager Mrs Sibulele Diko reaffirmed the agency's commitment to working closely with municipalities to address infrastructure challenges, including potholes, while also creating job opportunities through labour-intensive methods and skills transfer.

In welcoming the support, the Mayor expressed appreciation to MISA, noting that this partnership demonstrates a shared commitment to improving road infrastructure for the safety and convenience of residents.

"We are grateful for this contribution which will strengthen our pothole repair programme. Safe and well-maintained roads are essential for the growth of our City and the wellbeing of our communities. We encourage our teams to use these materials responsibly and with speed, so that we can deliver visible improvements on our roads. We value this partnership with MISA and look forward to more collaborative efforts to enhance service delivery."

The Municipality is confident that the materials will go a long way in supporting the current programme to repair potholes, rehabilitate roads, and keep the city moving forward.

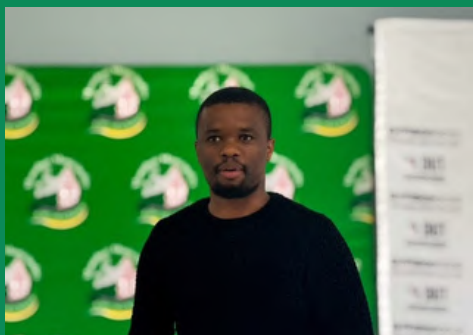


Netball for Growth Coaching and Umpire Clinic

the Msunduzi Municipality Youth Office successfully hosted the Netball for Growth Coaching and Umpire Clinic at Copesville, Ward 29. The programme was warmly welcomed by one of the ward assistants, who expressed gratitude for the initiative and shared hopes for its lasting impact on the community.

The primary aim of the programme was to uplift and educate local netball coaches and umpires. It focused on developing and empowering participants through targeted training that supports the growth of netball. The initiative also aimed to strengthen ties with the Msunduzi Netball Association, promote fair play, and enhance technical skills among community members.

Coaches from DUT (Durban University of Technology) contributed their expertise by providing demonstrations and sharing key insights into the requirements and expectations during competitive matches. Several stakeholders were present to support the initiative, including African Bank, ABM, and representatives from the Department of Sport and Culture. This clinic stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration and development through sport, and it marks an important step toward nurturing future talent.



Amakhosi and Msunduzi Leadership Unite for Service Delivery



Under the theme “Strengthening Partnerships for Improved Governance and Service Delivery”, the Senior Manager for the Political Support Office, Mr. Sandile Zondi, officially opened an important engagement between Amakhosi and the Office of the Speaker.

Honourable Speaker Cllr. N. E. Majola reiterated that the platform was designed to deepen understanding, build stronger partnerships, and identify key areas vital for effective service delivery. She emphasized that working together in unity, rather than in silos, would bring the municipality closer to achieving responsive and inclusive governance for communities.

As the engagement drew to a close, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Land Use Affairs (COGTA) engaged further with the Amakhosi. The Municipal Planning Office, Town Planning Division, provided input on SPLUMA (Spatial Planning and Land Use Management).

It was highlighted that after South Africa emerged from the pressures of Apartheid, the government introduced a framework to properly plan settlements. This framework aimed to strengthen land-use regulation, particularly around traditional land, in order to develop commercial areas, create opportunities for community growth, and stimulate employment.

The Amakhosi urged the Town Planning Office to proceed cautiously and avoid moving too far ahead of them in the process. They emphasized that careful coordination would help rural areas remain organized and ensure that, when development and services were introduced, they could be implemented without displacing communities.

Healthy Lifestyle Awareness Programme

Msunduzi Youth Service Department, together with the Office of the Councillor, Gift of the Givers Foundation, Inkunzi'Isematholeni Foundation, Willowfountain Local Clinic, TB HIV Care, MngadiMed, Youth Mzansi in Business, and Zulu Fitness Club, hosted a Healthy Lifestyle Awareness Programme at Willowfountain Combined School.

The aim of this programme was to raise awareness about the negative impact of drug abuse, promote health and wellness, and encourage learners to stay focused on their studies. Learners also received health education on topics such as HIV, substance abuse, rehabilitation, and abstinence.

As part of promoting a healthy lifestyle, learners participated in aerobics and indigenous games. To conclude the programme, girls were provided with sanitary pads, while Gift of the Givers Foundation also gifted learners with beanies.





Inspiring Success: Deputy Mayor Encourages Emzamweni High Ahead of Trials

It is that time of the year as matriculants prepare for their trial exams. Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize, together with Ward Councillor Cllr. Mbanjwa, visited Emzamweni High School for a trial preparation prayer.

Ward Councillor Cllr. Mbanjwa welcomed everyone and encouraged learners to continue raising the Emzamweni High School flag high and to maintain the excellent pass rate achieved every year.

“Emzamweni High School has always been an inspiration to all the schools in Vulindlela in terms of its pass rate. What I am saying is that your background does not determine your future. Do not try to compete with your teachers, they know better than you. Listen to your teachers, focus on your books as the syllabus is about to be completed, so do not wait until the eleventh hour to start studying. As you prepare for your trials, study with understanding so that you will not panic during the exams. Have confidence on the day of your exam and remember what you have learned throughout the year. No one can take education away from you, so chase your dreams and know exactly what you want to achieve in life,” said Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize.



Social Ills Awareness Program

As part of the Sukuma Sakhe program, the Msunduzi Municipality's Area-Based Management (ABM) in the Vulindlela area, in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, hosted a Social Ills Awareness Program at Bhekuximba High School.

The initiative aimed to educate learners on key issues affecting youth today, including the importance of mental health, various forms of abuse, early childhood development, and the prevention of HIV and AIDS. The program seeks to empower young people with knowledge and support as they navigate their growth into adulthood.



Msunduzi's ABM Hosts Three-Day Empowerment Programme for Girls

The Msunduzi Municipality Area Based Management is hosting a three-day empowerment programme for young girls, aimed at shaping future leaders and guiding young women toward positive life choices.

On Day 1, the programme commenced at the Copesville Community Hall, in partnership with Umzansi Youth in Business and TB HIV Care support initiatives. The session was designed to address critical social issues affecting young women, while also equipping them with valuable life lessons to help them build confidence, resilience, and ambition.

The programme focuses on empowerment, education, and personal growth, creating a safe and engaging platform where young girls can learn how to navigate challenges, make informed decisions, and pursue opportunities that will help them thrive in life.

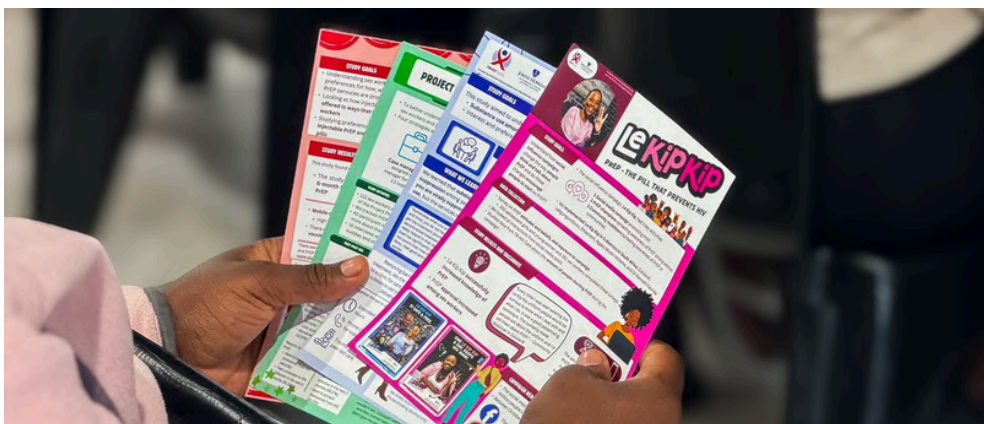




The final day of the Youth Empowerment Camp at Copesville Community Hall unfolded in a spirit of celebration, learning, and growth, perfectly honouring the month dedicated to women. Young girls gathered with excitement and pride, closing the three-day journey with powerful lessons that not only spoke to their present challenges but also lit a path toward their future.

Key topics included HIV prevention, assertive communication, and making positive health choices all aimed at empowering participants to take charge of their wellbeing and make informed decisions. In addition, the programme offered a career development session, where participants were guided on how to write a professional CV, an important step toward employment and personal growth.

This initiative not only celebrated the strength and potential of young women but also reaffirmed the Municipality's dedication to uplifting and investing in the next generation of women.





ABM HIV/AIDS Stakeholders Engagement

The Stakeholders Engagement session, hosted by Area Based Management (ABM), commenced with the participation Msunduzi Municipality officials, uMgungundlovu District Municipality, South African Police Service (SAPS), Family South Africa (FAMSA), Inkunz'Isematholeni Foundation, Human Science Research Council (HSRC), CDW COGTA, CBR, KeyHealth Medical Scheme, Secure Fun Advisory Services, Santam, Metropolitan, LA Health, and the Department of Social and Innovation. The session was held at Grange Hall.

This initiative is designed to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, develop strategies to support people living with HIV, and address the challenges faced by those defaulting on medication. It also focuses on training peer educators to spread awareness, strengthening support groups, and increasing community outreach. Furthermore, researchers presented updated statistics on individuals infected with HIV, including those who are HIV-positive but not receiving treatment.

The session aimed to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders, formalize partnerships, and plan collectively for improved service delivery. The engagement provided a platform to discuss key areas for improvement, with a strong focus on addressing HIV and AIDS. Researchers and organizations were encouraged to unite, share knowledge, and empower one another, as ultimately, the goal is to serve the community.



Career Choice Program for Grade 9 learners

Msunduzi Municipality Library Services Southern Region successfully hosted a Career Choice Program for Grade 9 learners from surrounding schools in Ward 39, Vulindlela Circuit.

The event was officially opened by Councillor M Mkhize, who delivered an encouraging message to the learners. He expressed his hope that the program would be a great success and have a meaningful impact on the participants. He emphasized the importance of making informed subject choices, wishing that the insights gained from this initiative would serve as a game-changer in helping learners choose the right academic and career paths.

A few key stakeholders were also present to share their knowledge and provide valuable insights into the opportunities available in their respective fields. These stakeholders included Umgungundlovu TVET College, Disaster Management, Black Ink, Sibonga Imizamo, S'fundimvelo, and MLab. Each representative highlighted the requirements for various career paths and offered guidance to help learners make informed decisions about their future studies and career choices.

The event was a great success, and every learner who attended left with a positive mindset. It is hoped that the impact of today's program will inspire them to make informed decisions when selecting subjects that align with their future career paths.



Career Choice Program for Grade 9 learners - Day 2

Day two of the Career Choice Program focused on the youth and broader community. The Msunduzi Municipality Library Services, in partnership with multiple stakeholders, including the Department of Social Development, Msunduzi Municipality Youth Development Office, Department of Employment & Labour, Msunduzi Museum, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), Fire and Rescue Services, University of South Africa (UNISA), Mzansi Youth in Business, Rural Metro Emergency Management Services, Agric Africa Development, and Ezemvelo Wildlife collaborated to make this initiative possible held at Ward 39 Vulindlela District.

Cllr. Mkhululi Mkhize, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended. "I encourage everyone to take advantage of this career program, as it will help reduce the rate of unemployment and provide valuable knowledge on how to apply to higher education institutions", he said.

The purpose of this initiative is to guide people on how to apply for learnerships, gain access to higher education institutions, and improve their curriculum vitae (CV) writing skills. The program also encouraged the youth to consider enrolling in short courses to enhance their skills and improve their employability.





Girls Empowerment Talk at Sobantu

Msunduzi Library Services, in collaboration with Msunduzi Area-Based Management and different stakeholders, proudly hosted a powerful and uplifting Girls Empowerment Talk at Sobantu Ward 35 Hall.

The event brought together dynamic speakers, inspiring stories, and meaningful conversations, all aimed at motivating and empowering high school girls as we wrapped up Women's Month on a high note.

From laughter and learning to real talk and self-love, the day was all about building confidence, celebrating girl power, and reminding every young woman in the room that her voice matters and her dreams are valid.

Annual Girls Talk at Bessie Head Library

Msunduzi Municipality Library Services, in partnership with Sindiswani Trading Enterprise and Long Lasting Inspiration, celebrated the annual Girls Talk event held at Bessie Head Library.

The purpose of the day was to encourage women of all ages to share their experiences and words of encouragement. Women from different careers shared their journeys with young girls, motivating them to focus on their studies, work hard, and strive to become the best versions of themselves. They were also encouraged to picture where they would like to be in ten years and to invest in their talents.

The initiative also included a health talk by doctors, focusing on the challenges girls face during their monthly cycles. The session provided valuable insights into body changes, hormonal health, and overall well-being.

As a token of appreciation, the young girls were gifted with goodie bags containing essentials to support their personal growth and well-being.





Deputy Mayor Kicks Off National Futsal League at YMCA

Deputy Mayor Mxolisi Mkhize alongside Cllr N Maseou joined South African Indoor Football Association (SAIFA) President Mr. Poobalan Govindasamy at the YMCA to kick off a thrilling match in the local National Futsal League.

This engagement forms part of the Msunduzi Municipality's ongoing commitment to youth development through sport, recognising the vital role that activities like futsal play in empowering young people, building community pride, and promoting healthy lifestyles.





Youth Development Centre & KZN Cycling Development Training Camp

Msunduzi Municipality's Youth Development Centre in partnership with KZN Cycling Development hosted an exciting Cycling Training Camp at Cascades, the iconic training ground of professional cyclists.

The camp, open to youth aged 9 to 17, brought together passionate young riders eager to improve their cycling skills. The day focused on key areas including:

- A debriefing session with the kids to set the tone and build confidence
- Practical cycling manoeuvres to sharpen control and agility
- Important safety precautions to ensure safe riding habits
- An introduction to Cascades, where top pro cyclists train and compete
- A walk-through and discussion of the track layout for better navigation and performance

The event was filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a spirit of growth, leaving the young participants inspired and better equipped for their cycling journeys.





Our Airport Fire Engine Gets a Fresh New Look!

the dedicated firefighters at the airport went above and beyond their regular duties to give the airport fire engine a much-needed makeover. The rims were resprayed, the body was polished, and every detail was carefully attended to—leaving the vehicle looking as good as new.

While the fire engine's primary role has always been to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies, its maintenance remained a top priority to ensure it stayed in optimal working condition. A clean, well-maintained vehicle not only helped extend its lifespan but also demonstrated the pride our firefighters took in their work.

Here's to keeping the fleet ready, reliable, and runway-worthy!



Operation Basadi

The Msunduzi Municipality Security Department and Traffic Police Department joined the Basadi Operation in collaboration with SAPS and the Department of Home Affairs at the Alexandra Police Station today.

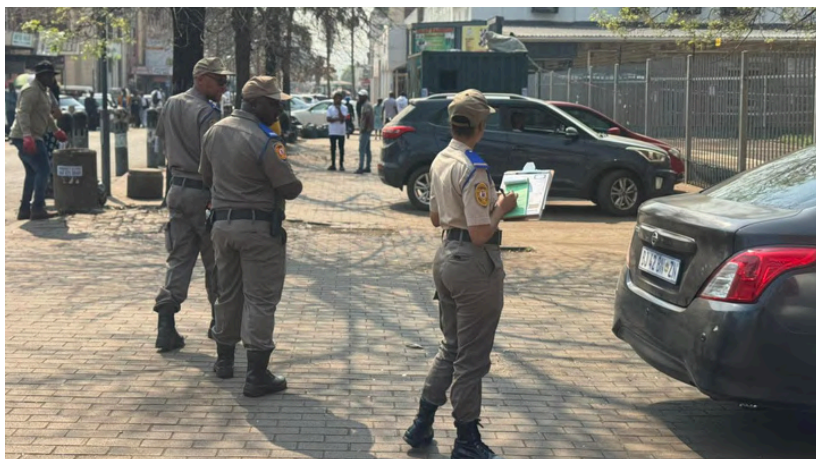
The purpose of this operation, led by women as part of celebrating Women's Month, focused on addressing gender-based violence, conduct roadblocks, and curb illegal immigration, and to combat crime in and around the city. The operation was carried out in multiple locations in and around the city.



Msunduzi Traffic Department Conducts Road Safety Operation on Church Street

The Msunduzi Municipality Security Department and Traffic Police Department joined the Basadi Operation in collaboration with SAPS and the Department of Home Affairs at the Alexandra Police Station on Friday, 29 August 2025.

The purpose of this operation, led by women as part of celebrating Women's Month, focused on addressing gender-based violence, conduct roadblocks, and curb illegal immigration, and to combat crime in and around the city. The operation was carried out in multiple locations in and around the city.



Msunduzi Municipality Acts Firmly on Illegal Strike and Leads Citywide Clean-Up

On 29 August 2025, the Msunduzi Municipality strongly condemned the unlawful actions of striking EPWP participants who dumped waste across Pietermaritzburg, including outside City Hall and in the CBD. The Municipality labelled the act as sabotage and confirmed that it would not be tolerated.

An urgent Labour Court interdict was obtained to stop the unlawful behaviour, and all involved employees are facing disciplinary action under a strict "no work, no pay" policy.

Executive Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, joined by senior municipal leaders, led Operation Clean-Up, working alongside waste teams to restore cleanliness and order in the city.

Mayor Thebolla apologised to residents and businesses for the disruption and assured the public that service delivery would continue and that law and order would be upheld.

The Municipality reminds employees that all permanent positions are advertised through formal channels and warns that acts of sabotage and illegal strikes will not be tolerated.



Deputy Mayor Leads Night-Time Clean-Up Operation to Tackle Waste Backlog

Led by Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize, a clean-up operation across parts of the city brought together Municipal Manager Mr. S.F. Mndebele, and dedicated Msunduzi councillors and officials in a collective effort to respond to the growing waste backlog and restore dignity to affected areas.

In light of ongoing disruptions in waste management services, the Deputy Mayor emphasised the Municipality's commitment to maintaining essential service delivery, even under challenging circumstances. These clean-up efforts form part of interim measures to support communities while longer-term solutions are being addressed.

