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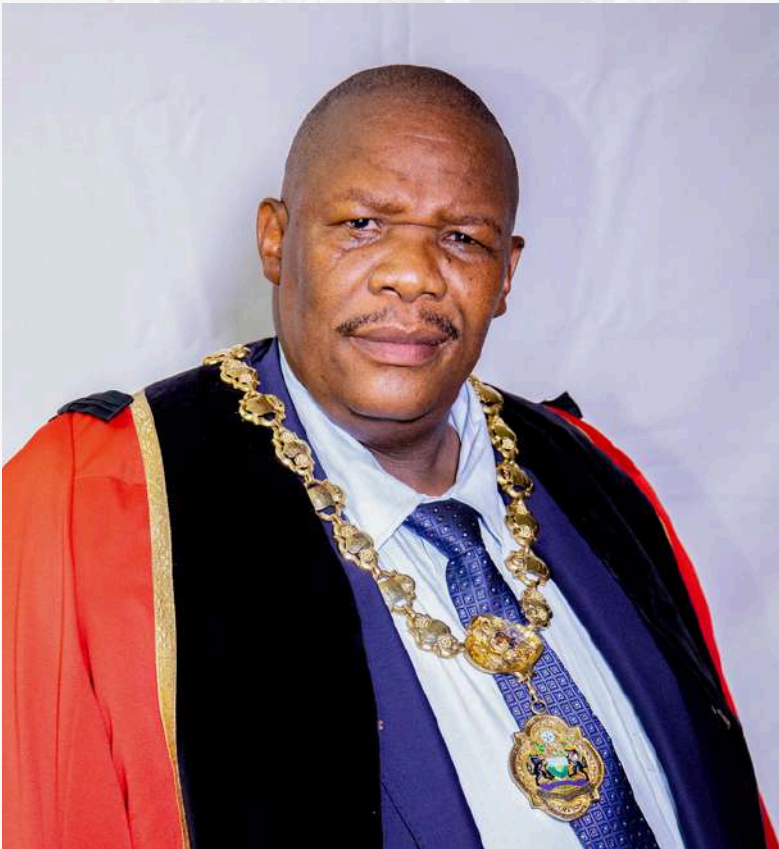
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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



A warm welcome to your festive season. The festive holidays are officially underway with our children back at home. In the midst of 16 days of Activism we have unfortunately observed atrocious crimes against women and children that have scorched throughout our city and country. My purest condolences goes out to the families and particularly children that have had to witness the atrocities that are seemingly weaved into the hem of our society.

My further deepest commiserations to the families that have lost their homes in the Sacca area (Mkondeni) fire. This is a sound to call all NGOs and businesses to come together as a refuge for the misfortunate. With weather changes we need to also anticipate other incidents that will require us not to work in silos but rather in unison. 30 years into democracy and the heritage and legacy of 'Ubuntu' is still with us. With all the excitement of the festivities, I appeal to all citizens to take extra precautions in their day-to-day activities, whatever that may be.

We recently launched our Safety campaign that encompasses a multidisciplinary team in the strive for consistent road, traffic and overall compliance from our citizens. This festive season I would like to encourage responsible fun, I ask that each and every one of you remains accountable for their actions and preserve the lives of those around you. Responsible driving will ensure that both you and those around you are safe. We have seen an array of road accidents particularly in the bottom half of this year - it would be a tragedy if we continue to operate in this manner.

The Msunduzi Animal Pound Unit and traffic teams are working tirelessly to mitigate the apparent hike of stock theft. Not only is stock theft illegal but it hinders the progress of small businesses, it takes away the honest livelihoods of our fellow citizens. In a time where our economy is not at its strongest- every rand is the difference between business success and business failure. I implore that we exhibit the spirit of unity in all that we do, and consider your neighbor in your decision making.

To our matriculants, allow yourselves to have fun and relax without the pressure of your results that are yet to come. You did your best and we are proud of you regardless of the results.

Comply, be safe and enjoy your holidays responsibly.



UPDATE ON THE UPCOMING HOUSING PROJECT IN INCWADI, WARD 39

His Worship, the Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, alongside Inkosi yaseMaqandini, ward councillor, and the Msunduzi Human Settlement department, held a community meeting in iNcwadi, Ward 39, to provide an update on the upcoming housing project in the area.

The meeting aimed to discuss the new housing development, which will be implemented on land owned by Inkosi yaseMaqandini.

Inkosi yaseMaqandini has granted the municipality permission to proceed with the project, which is expected to begin in May next year, bringing significant benefits to the local community.

This project is aimed at improving local communities by giving shelters that are safe to live in. "I'd like to thank inkosi yasemaqadini for allowing us to proceed with this project that will be change to our people" said Thebolla





MSUNDUZI LAUNCHES BRIGHT SUMMER FESTIVAL



The city of Pietermaritzburg is poised to kick off an exciting summer festival season.

Msunduzi Tourism hosted the launch of the Bright Summer Festival calendar, marking the beginning the summer festival season in Pietermaritzburg. The event, held at The Soil Boutique in KwaMpumuza, was officially launched by the Mayor and the Acting Municipal Manager.



The festival is brought to you by the Msunduzi Tourism Unit in collaboration with the Botanical Gardens, MTN, Palm Tree Event Management, and other key stakeholders.

The festival aims to showcase a diverse range of upcoming events, fostering collaboration and unity among event organizers.



The Mayor emphasized the importance of collective effort, encouraging event organizers to work together in support of one another. In Addition he also highlighted the city's commitment to ensuring public safety during the festival season. He assured attendees that law enforcement would continue to conduct roadblocks to guarantee everyone's safety.

Furthermore, Councillor Thebolla touched on the city's strategic initiatives aimed at revitalizing Maritzburg's former glory and creating new job opportunities.

With its rich program of events, the Bright Summer Festival promises to be an unforgettable experience for the capital city.



RESIDENTS URGED TO ACT AGAINST GBV



A program in recognition of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children took place at Westgate Grange Centre.

Msunduzi Municipality's Area Based Management (ABM) joined by government departments, NGOs and NPOs including other stakeholders hosted this event to provide a platform for guests and residents to have an open discussion on mental health issues, gender based violence, HIV/AIDS and other social ills affecting local communities.

Speakers advised residents to break the silence on the abuse of women and children.



AREA BASED MANAGEMENT HOSTS ISIBAYA SAMADODA

The Municipality's Area-Based Management alongside the Department of Health, traditional leadership and other organisations hosted Isibaya Samadoda, at the Incwadi Community Hall in Ward 39.

Also in attendance was Cllr Mkhize. The Municipality expressed its gratitude to the men who attended the program, acknowledging their commitment to participating in such an important initiative.

The event served as a platform for open dialogue on the challenges men face in society. It also emphasized the importance of regular health check-ups, urging men to utilize clinics for proactive health care. Furthermore, the conference highlighted the vital roles men play in their families, underscoring their responsibilities toward their loved ones, particularly in the upbringing and well-being of their children.

The Municipality supported this program as it seeks to deliver services to communities especially in rural areas. A representative from the Department of Health emphasised that such programs look to reach men who cannot easily access health facilities, and to advise men to normalize visiting local clinics and getting tested for illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, TB etc



THE SALGA KZN DSAC GAMES 2024

The SALGA KZN DSAC Games 2024 officially kicked off on Friday the 6th of December and ran until Sunday the 8th. uMgungundlovu District Municipality had teams participating in various sporting codes in the games.

uMgungundlovu District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Mzi Zuma along with our own Msunduzi Mayor Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla alongside mayors and councillors from other municipalities within the district gathered at Sugar Ray Xulu stadium in support of the males' soccer team which saw them emerge victorious 1 - 0 against eThekweni Municipality.



IDOLOBHA LIGIYE NGENGOMA KUBUNGAZWA UKUQALA KWAMAHOLIDI ANCIBIJANE

The Municipality joined the 5th Mkhulu Ingoma Festival at the Caluza Community Hall, showing strong support for this annual celebration.

As we embrace the festive season, the Mkhulu Ingoma Festival showcased various artists within traditional music and Maskandi who provided musical entertainment for those in attendance. Let us continue to support events throughout the festive season and to enjoy them safely.



THE MUNICIPALITY HONORS CHIEF NGCOBO'S LEGACY



The Msunduzi Municipality Ward Councillor Zuma in collaboration with the Vulindaba Albert Ngcobo Foundation hosted an Ingoma Traditional Zulu Dance competition at the Vulindlela Hall today to honor the legacy of Chief Vulindaba Albert Ngcobo.

Groups gathered to compete for prizes in the spirited event that celebrated the life and contributions of the late Chief, who had once ruled the area before passing the mantle to the current chief. The competition served as a meaningful tribute to the Chief, reinforcing the community's connection to its history and cultural heritage.

Cllr Zuma reflected on the profound impact the Chief had on his life and the community of Vulindlela. He acknowledged the Chief's role in witnessing and guiding significant changes, including the implementation of schools and the introduction of electricity, which brought progress and hope to the area. He further described the Chief as a pillar of strength and a source of wisdom whose legacy will never be forgotten.



IYAQHUBEKA IMIZAMO YAMASPALA YOKUKHUCULULA IDOLOBHA



Inhlanzi ishelwe ngamanzi kulaba abayishaya indiva imithetho nemiyalelo kaMaspala uMsunduzi njengoba ugasele kumgwaqo u Pietermaritz ubhidliza izakhiwo ezingekho emthethweni.

Umaspala uqhuba umbhidlango wokulwisana nokungayihloniphi imithetho yaleli dolobha ebekwe nguMaspala , oqinisekisa kokunye ukuba negunya lokuthengisa kulona leli dolobha, osekushiye abokufika abanezitolo ezingagunyaziwe besele dengwane kubhidlizwa izitolo nezakhiwo abahlala kuzo.

USandile Zondi ongumphathi wezokuphepha komphakathi usekushayele ihlombe ukusebenza ngokubambisana kwabasebenzi bezomthetho kumaspala ukuqhuba lomsebenzi, wanezela ngokuthi ziningi izephula mthetho kuleli dolobha, kodwa uMaspala uzoqhubeka nokwenza konke okusemandleni ukubuyisa isithunzi saleli dolobha.

“Zintathu izakhiwo ezisibhidlizile namhlanje, futhi lokhu kusayisiqalo. Kuningi esisazokwenza ukuqinisa umthetho kuloyamgwaqo u Pietermaritz”, kuphawula u Zondi.

MSUNDUZI RESIDENTS TO HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

The Deputy Mayor, also the Chairperson of the Infrastructure Portfolio Committee, along with the Ward Councillors of wards 1, 6, and 7, conducted a sight visit to the successful completion of the borehole project sponsored by NMD Construction company, aimed at improving water access for local communities. The project, which focuses on enhancing water infrastructure, is expected to significantly benefit residents in these areas.

DM Mkhize expressed his gratitude to NMD Construction for their sponsorship and the timely completion of the project. “This will bring change to many families and will make a significant impact on Msunduzi as a whole,” he said, highlighting the positive effects the project will have on the community.





A SAFER BRIDGE FOR SWEETWATERS RESIDENTS



The Deputy Mayor who is also Chairperson of the Infrastructure Portfolio Committee, conducted an inspection of the reconstructed footbridge in Ward 2, Sweet Waters.

This bridge, which had become unusable due to damage, is now fully repaired and resurfaced, allowing residents to once again safely cross the river stream. The municipality took the initiative to restore the bridge, ensuring that it will serve as a vital pedestrian route for the community.



RELIEF FOR SACCA, MKONDENI

The Msunduzi Municipality Disaster Management Centre, in alongside the Department of Human Settlements and Ward 37 Councillor Elliot, provided relief materials following a devastating fire that broke out on Saturday in SACCA, Mkondeni. The tragic incident affected 43 households, leaving many in need of immediate assistance. The joint effort aimed to provide support and aid to those impacted by the disaster.





BOOK LAUNCH OF BRIAN KHOZA

The book launch at the Bessie Head Library was nothing short of inspiring, featuring the remarkable Brian Khoza, the hopeful South African. This event highlighted the incredible power of literature to shape and uplift our communities.

As we celebrate local writers and their impactful stories, we're reminded of the importance of supporting voices that reflect our shared experiences and dreams for the future. The library is proud to provide a platform for such talent, and we encourage everyone to explore these powerful works. The book will be available at our libraries. don't miss out on the opportunity to experience the voices that are shaping our world.



BOOK LAUNCH OF APIWE MNCUBE

The Msunduzi Municipality's Bessie Head Library alongside family members, friends and other authors celebrated the launch of *The Sands of Jala Isililo* and *Where the Shadows Reside*, both written by Aphiwe Mncube. The launch took place at the Soil Boutique in KwaMpumza.

Ward Councillor Ngubo extended a warm welcome and praised the young author for her impressive achievements. She encouraged the audience to not only purchase the books but also to take their time to read and immerse themselves in the stories. The books will soon be available for borrowing at the Bessie Head Library, offering the community an opportunity to discover and connect with the narratives within.



HANDOVER CEREMONY FOR ALBANY COMPETITION PRIZES



Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize attended the handover ceremony for the Albany Competition prizes, hosted by Albany, The Witness, and Coca-Cola at Monty's Convenience @ Astron Energy.

The prizes included a Jojo Tank, a mountain bike, a skateboard, and Monster Energy products. The Deputy Mayor expressed pride in the efforts made by the corporate sector to give back to the Msunduzi community, underscoring the importance of such partnerships for local development.





WOMEN EMPOWERMENT EVENT



In commemoration of 30 years of democracy, Msunduzi Municipality, in collaboration with various stakeholders hosted an empowerment event for women who have been given a second chance to transform their lives at the Correctional Services Hall.

Amongst these stakeholders was Families South Africa (FAMSA), South African Women Dialogue, Men Fighting Against Domestic Abuse (MFADA), Themba Njilo Foundation, and DueCare, Zendalo Bespoken Beadwork, Nikithemba Support Services.

The purpose of the event was to provide a platform for women who have been incarcerated to share their stories, challenges, and triumphs. It aimed to encourage and support these women in rebuilding their lives, starting their own businesses, and developing skills to become independent and provide for their families.

This initiative demonstrates Msunduzi Municipality's commitment to promoting equality, second chances, and women's empowerment. By providing a supportive environment and connecting these women with resources and opportunities. The municipality hopes to inspire positive change and contribute to a more equitable society.





SERVICE DELIVERY EFFORTS



Msunduzi Municipality's Parks Department responding to fallen trees following strong winds.



Traffic wardens conducting a stop and search for traffic fines and warrants and overall road compliance on Chief Albert Luthuli Street (Commercial Road)



CVP Operation held in Alexandra Road/Jesmond Road, outside Maritzburg Girls High School.