



# ***The Msunduzi Municipality***

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**ALL MUNICIPAL SERVICES TO RESUME AS MSUNDUZI OVERHAULS ITS  
OPERATIONS'  
MEDIA BRIEFING BY THE MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY  
27 JUNE 2017**

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Members of the media and the fourth estate.

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a briefing on the recent events that have led to disruptions to service delivery in our city.

We have recently observed that the city has been experiencing service delivery disruptions and electricity outages, we suspect that this has been due to sabotage by some small group of elements within our employee workforce. We strongly regret such ill-discipline and anarchy in strongest possible terms.

We have recently put in place mechanisms for accelerated service delivery, with the passing of our credible budget, and the Integrated Development Plan, as well as a comprehensive spatial development framework.

We have a plan to modernize the ageing infrastructure and revamp, especially the electricity infrastructure for this city of ours as well as providing uninterrupted supply of electricity and other basic services.

We have a comprehensive programme for service delivery focused on building roads, supplying clean water and providing many services.

We have set aside budget to enhance municipal capacity, which will see more people being employed to deliver the services. All our communities will see enhanced investments into strategic infrastructure and such a programme requires disciplined staff and labour relations stability.

It is with great concerns and regret that such disruptions are creating havoc in our communities and have led to power and other service disruptions. Msunduzi Municipality has always enjoyed good relationship with its employees and therefore there are channels to address any matters that might have led to disgruntlement by our employees. We do encourage them to exercise their rights by following proper, legal channels. Such channels of communication have not been exhausted.

The Municipality is doing everything possible to ensure continued and uninterrupted service delivery. We respectfully ask our customers to work with us in isolating criminal conduct in our city. We have initiated legal processes to deal with criminal activities. They can contact our anonymous Call Centre on 0801 000 545.

We call upon all our communities to avoid illegal blockages and must work with the policy to fight criminal conduct. We thank the Msunduzi Community for their continued support and patience. We are working around the clock to resolve all issues. We do apologize for any inconvenience that might have been caused to our communities.

In order to arrest this situation, we have established a Joint Operations Centre, whose objective is to act as a war room and a centre of coordination for dealing with all disruptions. Various heads of all units, municipal leadership, heads of departments and operational staff are all involved in coordinating our efforts.

As of the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, electricity is still affected in some areas. For instance, the Mayors Walk Substation was deliberately shut down on two occasions. Power was restored there at 21:00. We have deployed security in the substation and electricity is restored.

#### Hilton/Sweetwaters Area

Hilton and Sweetwaters are supplied by the power station located in Retief Street. This is the area that is mostly affected. Even though power was restored, there was subsequently a power outage caused by an explosion. An affected section was isolated and power to most areas was restored.

We are still struggling to restore power in Dennis Shepstone, Selvan Grove and a few other areas are still affected.

Both I and the Deputy Mayor spent the whole night, assisting our teams to restore Electricity in the following areas in Vulindlela:

1. Sweetwaters (Ward 1) Shaya Moya/La Duma/Ganda Ganda
2. Soul City (Ward 2) Next to Siyande High School .
3. MaSakhane – Mabane
4. Nene shop ( Ward 4) Mbanjwas about 20 houses affected – by the school.
5. Shayabantu , Entabeni

We have increased security escorts to contractors to secure their safety in those areas. Much as we have increased security, we are still experiencing vandalism and deliberate sabotage in some of these areas.

We have also scaled up our communication mechanisms with our communities through informing ward councilors and other community leaders of our activities in these areas.

Northern areas: Thamboville, SWAPO A, SWAPO B and Thembalihle were restored and we continue to monitor the situation.

Cinderella Park has been restored and an ongoing monitoring will continue. We are also facing cable theft, as well as illegal connections. We will scale up our efforts to remove illegal connections.

Issued by Thobeka Mafumbatha  
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