



2022

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 3



 Harry Gwala District Municipality
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www.harrygwaladm.gov.za

Together we Deliver and Grow

VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

By 2030 Harry Gwala District Municipality will be a leading water services provider in the KZN Province with its communities benefitting from a vibrant agriculture and tourism sector.

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together with its communities and stakeholders Harry Gwala District Municipality will ensure the provision of clean, drinkable uninterrupted water services and proper sanitation facilities and strive to improve its agriculture and tourism sectors to enhance human dignity.

CORE VALUES

Transparency • Accountability • Consultation • Commitment and Honesty



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IDP Roadshows: People indicated confidence in the municipality



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza
Communications Manager

GREETINGS to all citizens of Harry Gwala District Municipality. We are meeting in this platform where we report to you the progress made thus far by the municipality regarding service delivery. We draw our mandate from section 152(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which provides that local government must-

- (a) Bring about democratic and accountable government for local communities
- (b) Ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner
- (c) Promote social and economic development
- (d) Promote a safe and healthy environment, and
- (e) Encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.

Responding to this constitutional mandate in particular sub-section 1(e), we have had a number of IDP/ Budget roadshows in all our sister municipalities. People were given platform to air their voice and share their ideas about services rendered to them. In these roadshows which were conducted in the beginning of the second quarter of the financial year 2022/23 people indicated confidence in the municipality regarding the provision of services. Guided by the input-output philosophy we are encouraged by the comments and innovative ideas that we receive from our communities in these gatherings.

We are happy to report to you that the District Communications Forum held its quarterly meeting successfully at Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality. The meeting which was on September, took a different approach where all councillors of that municipality were workshopped on various aspects of communication. Led by Government Communication

and Information System, the workshop was the first of its kind after the inauguration of the new council of Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality in 2021. Reacting to the workshop, council speaker Mr. Sifiso Phoswa alluded that such trainings are an eye opener to them as new councillors. “We have learnt a lot from you today, as from now we will ensure all councillors adhere to the rules and policies of communication, it is clear that having such trainings continuously we shall do better as the municipality in as far as communicating our messages to the people is concern,” said Phoswa.

As communicators we are convinced that through these workshops, our ultimate goal of having an engaged citizens in the region and beyond will be achieved. Engaged citizens are able to participate in all government activities including voting in local, provincial and national government elections. Engaged citizens are also able to influence the decisions of government regarding their needs by using available channels to the in the form of civil society, pressure groups or as individuals.

As we speed on through the last few days of the year, water consumption is expected to increase due to festive holidays. We appeal to all residents to use water sparingly and adhere to water restrictions, where applicable. The municipality remains committed to maintaining regular and timely communication with regards to service delivery issues and updates.

With the above words, I'd like to take this opportunity and wish you well for the upcoming festive break, stay safe and observe all government regulations and laws. Hope you enjoy the read, and please don't forget to also follow us on our social media pages: Harry Gwala District Municipality on Facebook, www.harrygwalaadm.gov.za, where you can also access the electronic version of this newsletter.

Till we meet again.

MISS NONTUTHUKO NGUBANE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)



MR MQONDISI DUMA
COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT



Message from the Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor

GREETING once more to all community members within the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

Use of the District Newsletter to improve communication with communities

In this edition, we will endeavour once more to provide a portfolio of evidence on the service delivery activities that as the Municipality we have undertaken within a specific period. The newsletter is a vital tool of communicating with our communities and stakeholders.

Communicating regularly with our communities is entrenched in the constitutional Imperative of freedom of information and the objectives of building a truly democratic state. After all government, work is a public activity. In any democracy, the government is elected by its people, and is therefore an institution for the people and by the people.

It is essential that communities within the Harry Gwala District Municipality are constantly informed about municipal work and empowered to take active part in it. This requires the Harry Gwala District Municipality to maintain continued interaction with all residents and this newsletter is a platform that enables the dissemination of information to the public by the District.

Welcome to the New Accounting Officer

Allow me, on behalf of the entire Municipality, to welcome our new Accounting Officer, Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke.

As the Mayor, I also wish to commend all the other candidates that applied and were interviewed for the position of Municipal Manager. All the candidates that were shortlisted underwent intensive evaluation and interview processes that were geared towards selecting a candidate that will take the Municipality to new frontiers.

I have no doubt that Mr Sineke is equal to the task and comes with extensive knowledge and experience within the local government sphere.

As the Council of the Harry Gwala District Municipality we expect commitment from the new Municipal Manager in delivering services to our people. The tasks that Mr Sineke is expected to tackle include boosting infrastructure development projects related to our line function, enhanced investor attraction that will favour development and create job opportunities within our District. Not forgetting keeping up with our vision



His Worship the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

As the Council of the Harry Gwala District Municipality we expect commitment from the new Municipal Manager in delivering services to our people.

that by 2030 Harry Gwala District will be a leading water services provider in the KZN Province, to ensure that we provide clean, drinkable uninterrupted water in the District. As the Councillors we will play our important role of monitoring the services delivered to our communities. We will keep a close eye on the direction our Municipality will take under Mr Sineke's leadership. We demand clean and good governance and as the Accounting Officer, this task falls within the ambits of responsibilities attached to the position of Municipal Manager.



Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo with the new Municipal Manager, Mr. Gamakulu Sineke

However, you will see new faces on the Executive Manager's Page as the contracts of the Previous Managers expired but we thank them for working tirelessly for the Municipality to ensure better services for Harry Gwala. We also wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours. We welcome the new executive directors and wish them all the best in their new positions. May they strive and excel.

Heritage Day

In the month of September, our country celebrates our diverse and beautiful heritage. This is the period wherein we celebrate with gusto what makes us South African. The theme for Heritage Month for 2022 is "Celebrating the Legacy of Solomon Linda and South Africa's Indigenous Music".

During Heritage month 2022, South Africa also commemorate the 60th anniversary of the passing of Solomon Popoli Linda who put isicathamiya on the map as a music genre and composed the now world famous "Mbube" song.

As the Harry Gwala District Municipality we wish all our communities a happy Heritage Month and let's all be proud of who we are.



In the month of September, our country celebrates our diverse and beautiful heritage. This is the period wherein we celebrate with gusto what makes us South African.



Gender Base Violence

Violence against women and children has to stop. Enough is enough. In our District in August two young girls from Ginyane High School, Minenhle Buthelezi and Amanda were brutally murdered. The District condemns such brutality and calls law enforcement to play their role. As the Mayor of the District also call out all man in the District to lead campaign to fight gender base violence, let be the first to say not in my name.

Provision of quality water to all communities is essential for human health and well-being



Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke
Municipal Manager

THIS is my first column in the Harry Gwala Newsletter after having been appointed as a Municipal Manager for the Municipality. From the onset I wish to clear the air and make it known to all Councillors, officials and the good people of the District and elsewhere that it is my greatest pleasure to announce that I feel very welcomed in the Municipality. It has been a over a month now in the Municipality's hot seat and I want to emphasise that I have experienced a peaceful and amicable transition and the working relations, by my observation, are thoroughly embedded and entrenched on the genesis of professionalism and I am getting along with officials and I feel like I am part of the family.

Most, if not all, may be asking themselves, what will my arrival to this esteemed institution mean? To answer that I will have to first do so by thanking the political leadership led by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Z.D Nxumalo and the entire Council and all employees led by their respective Departmental Heads for affording me an opportunity to be welcomed with open and warm arms. To provide a direct answer, for me leadership in management is about making others better as a result of my being here and making sure that my presence not only revitalize their choice of being civil servants but that impact lasts even in my absence.

Ralph Lauren, an American who founded and heads a multi-billionaire corporation bearing his name, once said a "leader has the vision and conviction that a dream can be achieved. He inspires (others with) the power and energy to get it done."

The role of district municipalities in improving service delivery in local municipalities is crucial and exerts a powerful influence on the sphere of local government, as well as the local municipalities under their jurisdiction. Primarily the function of a district municipality in the South African context, is to provide services such as water and sanitation. District municipalities handle the provision of these services within local municipalities to uplift the lives of our people.

The task of delivering these core services to all communities within the Harry Gwala District Municipality is not only vital but is necessary. The provision of quality water to all communities is essential for human health and well-being, economic development and the realization of the Constitutional rights of all the people of our country.

South Africa remains a water-scarce country and is facing a challenge in the delivery of water and sanitation services caused by among other factors, dilapidating water infrastructure, poor maintenance of related infrastructure, diminishing investment on water and sanitation infrastructure, deteriorating water quality and the worrying factor of recurring droughts driven by climate change.

These challenges lead to inequities in the access to water and sanitation by our communities. This means that we must vigilantly undertake our work as per the Constitutional mandate attached to the establishment of Districts. We will do our best and we will endeavour to meet the expectations of our communities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



**MR. KHULANI
MTHEMBENI BRIAN
MZIMELA**
Chief Financial Officer



**NTOMBIFUTHI NOMVUSELELO
FORTUNATE BUTHELEZI**
Social Service and
Development Planning



**MR. NKULULEKO
BIYASE**
Infrastructure
Services



**MRS. THOBILE THELMA
THIYANE-MAGAQA**
Corporate Services



**MR DUMISANI
SANDILE GOIBA**
Water Services

HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



**HONORABLE DEPUTY MAYOR
CLLR. T.N. JOJOZI**



**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
CLLR. Z.D. NXUMALO**



**HONORABLE SPEAKER
CLLR. M.S.D. MDUNGE**



**EXCO MEMBER
CLLR. S.D. BEKWA**



**EXCO MEMBER
CLLR. K.S. DLAMINI**



**EXCO MEMBER
CLLR. Z. TSHANGASE**



CLLR. T.G. SONI



CLLR. T.S.H. GAMEDE



CLLR. V.A.T. MTHEMBU



CLLR. X. MEMELA



CLLR. Z.M. NGIDI



CLLR. Z.R. TSHAZI



CLLR. R. RAMATLAPENG



CLLR. P.N. DAMOYI



CLLR. P.K. MEMELA



CLLR. N.W. DLADLA



CLLR. N.R. MTSHALI



CLLR. N.H. ZACA



CLLR. N.H. MALIMELA



CLLR. N. MDA



CLLR. N. DLAMINI



CLLR. Z.P. DLAMINI



CLLR. H.V. MSOMI



CLLR. H.A. LUKHOZI



CLLR. B.R. MEMELA



CLLR. B.L. MARNCÉ



CLLR. B. SIBENI



CLLR. S.R.L. NZIMANDE

TRADITIONAL LEADERS




INKOSI V.V. ZIMEMA



INKOSI M.S.I. ZULU

Harry Gwala District Municipality
new Municipal Manager
Mr. Gamakulu Sineke



**Harry Gwala District
Municipality, the new MM is
welcomed by Mayor and employees**



Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, welcomed and introduced the new Municipal Manager to the management as well as employees at the Harry Gwala District Municipality’s main offices in Ixopo. Employees gathered to warmly welcome the new Accounting Officer.

THE new Municipal Manager at Harry Gwala District Municipality Mr. Gamakulu Sineke, resumed his duties on the 1st of September 2022.

Mr Sineke, was welcomed by the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, together with his Deputy Cllr. Nosisa Jojozi as well as the Speaker Cllr. Sibongiseni Mdunge and other political leaders in the municipality.

The Management including the former acting Municipal Manager Mrs Thobile Thiyane-Magaqa welcomed the Municipal Manager.

After a brief meeting with management, Mayor then addressed the staff at the municipal offices and introduced Mr. Sineke as the accounting officer.

Mayor Nxumalo said it was a privilege and an honour to have someone of Sineke’s calibre being the new Municipal Manager.

“I would like to introduce to you (the employees of the municipality), the new Municipal Manager, Mr Sineke. May you acknowledge him and work well under his leadership. It a privilege and honour to have someone like

Sineke joining this municipality,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

During the meeting with management Mrs Thiyane-Magaqa, vowed that all the employees including management will support and be behind the new manager.

“Our expectation is that you will adapt and add wonders to this municipality. You are not a stranger to us as you have served in one of local municipality (Ubuhlebezwe as a Municipal Manager). We do hope you will add value to all of us, recognize and appreciate all stakeholders. We are looking forward to your leadership, on behalf of my colleagues we pledge unwavering support to you. Do your best in your new position,” said Mrs Thiyane-Magaqa.

Mr. Sineke acknowledged the good work that has been done before him.

“I am aware that I am fulfilling big shoes, but please accept me as I am,” said Sineke briefly.

Mayor also acknowledged the good work which was done by the acting municipal manager.





The Municipal Manager Mr. G.M Sineke addressed employees in his first official meeting as the Accounting Officer of the Harry Gwala District Municipality. All employees were in attendance including those from different satellite offices to listened attentively to the new Municipal Manager's remarks

New Municipal Manager calls for commitment on employees

HARDLY few days the newly appointed Municipal Manager, Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke warmed his new chair as the Harry Gwala District Municipality Municipal Manager, he wasted no time to call for united strength, commitment to hard work and to work as a collective.

Mr Sineke made the call when he met the Harry Gwala employees for the first time after assuming his duties as the Municipal Manager of the Municipality.

Popularly known with his clan name “Bhele or iBhele elide”, Mr Sineke has a vast experience in the Local Government after having worked as a Manager and a Councillor in different Municipalities in the district of Harry Gwala.

He has just ascended from the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality where he served as a Municipal Manager for more than 10 years, as he was employed from 2011 until his appointment at the District.

He holds a Master of Education (Med) obtained at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, he also holds a Bachelor of Education (BED) and Bachelor of Arts (BA).

Before joining uBuhlebezwe, Mr Sineke worked as a Municipal Manager for then Ingwe/KwaSani Local Municipality before it was merged into Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality.

In his first meeting, he officially met with the directors and Acting Directors, employees from all satellite offices including those working from the main office.

In his maiden speech, he emphasized the necessity to work as a collective to bring service delivery to the people of Harry Gwala District.

“As the District Municipality is the water and sanitation authority, we need to work very closely with our local Municipalities to ensure permanent solutions to challenges that continue to emerge in their areas.

He said they need to ensure that all wards have water. “This is part of our plans to become a leading water authority in terms of water supply countrywide” said Mr Sineke.

He said there is nothing the Municipality could fail to achieve when employees come together and work as family.

Mr Sineke warned against the political activists who are also the employees of the Municipality not to ever use the Municipality working hours to run their political meetings and functions.

He further made reference to the newly amended Municipal Systems Act that prohibits municipal employees from holding positions in political parties.

He advised those who may be affected by this amendment to adhere to the call and choose between being an employee or they remain in their political offices.

Mr. Sineke further indicated that he has an open door policy and those making mistakes should be corrected when necessary.



Jubilation was the order of the day when the Harry Gwala District Municipality announced three projects in the pipeline, expected to commence soon in UMzimkhulu. The community members came in their large numbers to listen to the Mayor's address regarding the planned infrastructural projects.

Water is Life, Sanitation is dignity:

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT ANNOUNCES SERVICE DELIVERY PROJECTS TO EMPOWER THE COMMUNITY

THE people in uMzimkhulu under The Harry Gwala District Municipality are excited that their dignity will be renewed following an announcement of three project which will commence immediately.

District Mayor. Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, announced the start of the UMzimkhulu Bulk Sewer outfall construction of manholes and construction of junction boxes, and the Bulk Sewer Rising main and Pump station which is meant to address all the sanitation problem the Umzimkhulu town has been facing.

“This project is meant to address UMzimkhulu concerns about sewage. The project entails the design and construction of the new sewer outfall that will drain Wizzy Valley, town stadium, Esayidi FET College including providing a connection for a drainage outfall from the hospital area and eliminating pump station 3.

The new sewer outfall will also cater for the current and proposed future development within the northern part of the town,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The Bulk Sewer Rising main and pump station is budgeted at R49 177 000.26 and The Bulk Sewer outfall construction of manholes and construction of junction boxes is budgeted at R24 106 168.91. Estimated time for the projects is 18 months.

Consulting engineers is Zimile Consulting Engineers and Contractors are SSR Security T/A and Mahlubi Plant Hire for both the projects.

Ward 16 counsellor Ms. Khanyisile Mafuleka said the community is excited about the announcement of the project.

“We are excited that these projects will bring job opportunities to the community members but mostly we are excited that this project will bring us dignity as we



Job opportunities are expected to be created in the implementation of the three projects that the Harry Gwala District officially introduced in UMzimkhulu.

will have proper sanitation facilities, “said Ms. Mafuleka.

The Mayor also announced the Greater Mngqumeni Water Supply Scheme: Phase 5.

The project will be the Construction of Greater Mngqumeni Abstraction works, Pumping System and Rising Main: Civil, Mechanical and Electrical. This will be done at the budget of R 28 000 000.00.

Consulting engineers are ECA Consultants and contractor is Mabona Civils and Plant Hire. Expected period to finish the project is 10 months.

The project comprised the development of a stand-

alone water supply scheme for these villages (Masameni, Mngumeni, Ndlovini, Ehlanzeni, Matyeni, Gugwini and Mahhobe).

Mayor Nxumalo pleaded with the community members to make sure that there is a smooth process of the project and that once completed they must protect them. “This is the better life for all we had promised. Clean, drinkable uninterrupted water services and proper sanitation facilities. Your part as the community members is to protect such infrastructure, “said Mayor Nxumalo.



Community members were afforded an opportunity to raise their concerns and compliments regarding the planned infrastructural projects.



The political leadership of the Harry Gwala District Municipality along with its administration ditched their offices and visited 11 sites to monitor progress on the ground.

11 projects inspected by Harry Gwala District Municipality leadership



The delegations led by Mayor, Z.D Nxumalo, Speaker Cllr. S. Mdunge, also held brief sessions with project leaders and officials responsible for the implementation of the projects.

HARRY Gwala District Municipality councillors and management led by Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo and Speaker Sibongiseni Mdunge, Visited 11 different sites for fact finding mission.

The sites visited included Ncukubane Water Supply Scheme, Summerfield Water Supply Scheme, KwaMeyi Teekloof Water Supply and Ibisi Sewer Project, these are based at Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality and Umzimkhulu Local Municipality. Day 2 of the Site Visit was at Kokstad Rising Main, Horseshoe Waterborne Sewer Project and Bulwer Nkumba Nkelabantwana Water Supply Scheme and Nomandlovu Water Scheme, which are based at Greater Kokstad Local Municipality and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality. The last day of the site visit was at Ubuhlebezwe where Highflats Water Supply Project and Ixopo Sewer Rectification was visited.

Mayor Nxumalo engaged with project managers and

municipal officials heading projects in these sites. Mayor Nxumalo said it was necessary that projects are managed accordingly and that municipality get updates constantly.

“Our job as the municipality is simple, we are here to make sure that we provide water to the public. Yes, water is a complex issue and difficult to deal with at times but ours is to work hard and make sure that the people in the district get clean drinkable water. We need to be committed and apply proper planning so that these projects are completed in a record time,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

Speaker and Mayor said they would keep an eye on these projects and would make an unannounced visit to check on progress. It was suggested that monthly reports should be provided on the progress of the above projects.

After these site visits there was a debriefing session with municipal officials and management to discuss what transpired in the site visit and resolutions on way forward were discussed.



The Harry Gwala District Municipality has conducted the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) roadshows for the 2022/2023 financial year. Community members had an opportunity to raise their concerns and compliments about service delivery to the political leadership and officials.

IDP ROADSHOWS

A platform to dialogue with community members

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality has conducted the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) roadshows for the 2022/2023 financial year. The IDP started in The Great Kokstad Local Municipality and concluded in UMzimkhulu Local Municipality in November. The IDP's roadshows also cover the other local municipalities Ubuhlebezwe and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, within the Harry Gwala District.

This process is guided by The Municipal Systems Act, Chapter 4, regulating that Municipalities must engage the public on the planning and implementation of Council Programs. The IDP is a super plan for an area that gives an overall framework for development.

It aims to coordinate the work of local and other spheres of government in a coherent plan to improve the quality of life for all the people living in an area. The plan looks at, inter alia, economic and social development of the municipality as a whole with a lifespan of 5 years

linked to the term of office for local Councillors.

The inputs from the Local Municipality includes issues of water, sanitation which is the District core function.

Other issues raised include the issue of street kids and drug addicts living on the streets known as "pharas".

"As Harry Gwala District we are committed to ensuring that we bring service to the people within our District. Water and Sanitation is our core; we then take full responsibility that we deliver. There are few projects that we are working on to address the needs in our community," said Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo.

Inputs from the roadshows were all noted by the District and the user Local Municipality for implementation in their plans.

Community members appreciated the opportunity to be addressed by municipal leadership, saying that having conversations in these meetings brings hope for a better future and a change that will be visible.



Newly-appointed councillor Mr. Lonwabo Nzimande sworn in by the Harry Gwala Municipality Executive Council.

New councillor committed to help the community of Harry Gwala District Municipality

NEWLY-sworn in councillor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Mr. Lonwabo Nzimande, has promised an increased focus on the municipal slogan “together we deliver and grow”, during the Special Inaugural Council Meeting at the Council Chambers in Ixopo.

Nzimande in his acceptance speech as the Harry Gwala Councillor he said he is committed in ensuring that there is service delivery and doing so together with the current councillors.

“It an honour and privilege to join Harry Gwala District Municipality as a council. I am committing myself to the saying that together we deliver and grow. I am eager to work together with this team in order to provide service delivery to the people of Harry Gwala District,” said Cllr. Nzimande.

Nzimande was accompanied by his family at the special inaugural council meeting.

The District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, welcomed

the new councilor, and said he should hit the ground running.

“Our main function in the District is water and sanitation, as you join us that will be your mandate. Water issue is very challenging but we must work hard to make sure we provide clean, drinkable water to our community. The team you are joining is dedicated and hardworking, you should not have challenges working together with us,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The District Municipal Manager, Mr. Gamakulu Sineke who facilitated the swearing in of the councillor Nzimande, congratulated him.

He was joined in by Chief Whip Cllr. N. Mhatu, Executive member. Cllr. D. Bekwa, who also congratulated Cllr. Nzimande and wished him the best in his new position. Nzimande is allocated to the following committees of council: Budget and Treasury Committee and Local Labour Forum. Cllr. Nzimande replaces Cllr. Bongani Keswa, who resigned.



Councillors of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, community leaders and members of the public gathered outside the Donnybrook's Magistrate Court in a bid to oppose bail for the murder suspect. The protest was coordinated through the Harry Gwalas'women's commission, an initiative that seeks to fight Gender-Based violence.

Harry Gwala District says no to Gender-Based Violence

HARRY Gwala District Municipality residents, supported by the District Councillors, the Harry Gwala Women's Commission, political leaders and social activists from different communities banded together to host a massive demonstration outside the Donnybrook's Magistrate's Court during the appearance of murder accused Baphumelele Zulu (21).

The suspect is facing two murder charges for allegedly killing Matric pupils, Amanda Zulu (18) and Minenhle Buthelezi (18). In court the suspect said he will not be asking for bail and the case was adjourned to September 2022 for further investigation.

The two Grade 12 learners from Ginyani Senior School, were brutally murdered last week by being hacked to death with an axe while in their rented house in Ngwangwane Village in Ward 08 under the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality.

It is alleged that the suspect killed Amanda and Minenhle on Sunday (31/07/2022) before dismembering their bodies.

Amanda's badly injured body was left in a pool of blood on the doorstep of their accommodation in the Memela homestead, while Minenhle's dismembered body was found five kilometres away from the scene.

In court NDZ Mayor Cllr. S. Msomi and UMzimkhulu Mayor Cllr. J. Msiya, were present as well as other Councillors from all the local municipalities and from the Harry Gwala District Municipality led by Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo.

In his message of support, Mayor, Cllr Z.D Nxumalo said they want justice to be served and said this was even more unfortunate as it happened on the eve of Women's Month.

Noluthando Mhatu the Chief Whip of Harry Gwala District and Women's Commissioner has called for unity amongst women during this time of tragedy.



Victim Amanda Zulu



Victim Minenhle Buthelezi





FEEDBACK FROM
**TEENAGE
PREGNANCY
DIALOGUE
COMMISSIONS**

DR. NDZ LM NGWAGWANE HALL

TOPICS COVERED

TEENAGE PREGNANCY • GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE • HIV AND AIDS AND TB • SUBSTANCE ABUSE

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Lack of employment • Peer pressure • Sugar daddy syndrome • Substance abuse

PREVENTION

Education on sexual intercourse • Parents to be roll models

DEPARTMENTS ROLES

Prevention programmes • Distribution of condoms by DOE and DOH • Enhance programmes in the community to keep our youth busy

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Children 10 years and above are involved • Taverns, streets and schools exposed

CONSEQUENCES

Addiction • Behavioral problems • Rape • GBVF

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Involvement of youth in activities and games such as sports • Parents to stop children from buying substances of abuse • Revival of community structures e.g., Community policing forum to verify tavern licenses • All efforts of the security should come to the community

GROUP 3

- HIV and TB
- Faithfull in taking treatment
- No multiple partners
- Know your status
- Disclosure – to your partner and family
- Regular check-ups
- Encourage circumcision for young boys

- DOH to give priorities to early medication
- Nurses to be responsible for confidentiality
- HIV and AIDS counselling – assistance from DSD with Psychosocial support services

GBVF • Substance abuse elevate GBV • High rate of unemployment

Make Agriculture Fashionable

- Mayor Nxumalo



Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo put away his suit and formal shoes for the day in the fields, farming for the Kokstad community. This was part of the planting season programme. The event was attended by MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison in KwaZulu-Natal Mr. Siphso Hlomuka. He is also the District champion MEC. They started the day with a multi-disciplinary enforcement operation on the N2. The event ended with the cutting of the cake celebrating senior citizens who are over 100 years, they celebrated with them at this event.

THE MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison in KwaZulu-Natal Siphso Hlomuka, rolled out the Multi-Planting Season Programme and Transport Month Programme in Harry Gwala District.

During his visit to Harry Gwala District MEC Hlomuka conducted a multi-disciplinary law enforcement operation on the N2 Westland at the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality. He was joined by Harry Gwala District Mayor Zamo Nxumalo and Greater Kokstad Mayor Lwando Madikizela.

The Multi Planting season programme is led by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, which seeks to support small scale farmers and communities to improve food security and ward off hunger.

The rollout took place at the Kokstad Local Municipality at the Thuthuka Ngele farm where MEC Hlomuka and District Mayor Nxumalo and other leaders and officials from the Department of Agriculture and

Rural Development showcased new planting technologies to the Thuthuka Ngele Agricultural Cooperative.

The Harry Gwala District will have a total of 3100 hectares of dry beans and maize planted in this season and a total of 962 beneficiaries will benefit from this programme.

In addition, this programme assists farmers with tractor services in plugging and planting and provision of agricultural inputs to indigent farmers in order to promote crop production as a catalyst for economic development, job creation and poverty alleviation in the communal land within the district.

Nxumalo speaking at the event he said it necessary that every home has a garden and community members to be involve in this multi-planting season initiative.

“We shouldn’t have to buy everything some of the food we should get it from our own garden, let work towards making agricultural fashionable and a way of living,” said Nxumalo.

“We want more Women in Boxing”

- Speaker Harry Gwala District Municipality



Speaker Cllr. S. Mdunge, had to show off his boxing skills to the Commonwealth medallist winner Ms. Phiwokuhle Mnguni during the Boxing Week municipal programme held at the Harry Gwala District Municipality’s main offices in Ixopo.

“A woman’s place is no longer in the kitchen. It could also be in a boxing rings.”

THOSE were the sentiments shared by Harry Gwala District Municipality Speaker Cllr. Sibongiseni Mdunge, when he was speaking during the women in Boxing Week Municipal program held at the municipal main office in Ixopo.

This event by Boxing South Africa (BSA), aims at address the various barriers of entry and upwards mobility for women in boxing. Boxing South Africa said this is one of the major steps in eradicating stereotypes in the world of boxing.

The Women in Boxing Municipal visit is in collaboration with South African National Amateur Organisation (Sanabo).

Speaker Mdunge in his welcoming remarks said women should take this opportunity and be more involved in sport as a way to fight social ills and especially gender based violence.

“A woman’s place is no longer in the kitchen, we longer expect them to be fetching water and cooking only but we want them to be more involved in sport. We want female boxers and female athletes to take the centre stage. We want more women in boxing. We are hoping that involving the youth in sport could fight the scourge of gender base violence. As the municipality our core function is water and sanitation but we also want to promote and support sport programs that empowers the youth,” said Speaker Mdunge.

Acting CEO Boxing South Africa Mr. Nsikayezwe Sithole said there is so much more that needs to be done to ensure that women in boxing strive, that includes promoting female boxers, attracting female athletes. Sanabo President Mr. Siyabulela Mkhwalo shared the sentiments and said women need to start in a young age to involve themselves in boxing.



Acting CEO for Boxing South Africa Mr. Nsikayezwe Sithole said there is a lot to be done to ensure that women dominate in the boxing sporting code to end the belief that the sport is only meant for men.



Miss Phiwokuhle Mnguni (21), from Dundee who is a commonwealth game medal winner 2022, said she started boxing as early as 12 years. "Boxing has saved me from lot of social ills especially as someone who grew up in a township. I have also travel many places because of boxing and I encourage other females to join me



especially at a younger age so they can grow in the sport. I started boxing when I was just 12 years and it has been amazing journey," she said.

Local Municipalities were encouraged to open their local halls and facility to host boxing match and have more boxing clubs.



Harry Gwala District Municipality was ecstatic to host the Boxing Week municipal programme.



The Boxing Week municipal programme at the Harry Gwala District Municipality was a resounding successful. Female learners from different schools and boxing clubs were also in attendance.





The Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA) hosted the Product Handover and Project Launch of Lemvelo body lotion and body massage oil.

Product Handover and Project Launch

THE Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA) hosted the Product Handover and Project Launch of Lemvelo Body Lotion and Body and Massage Oil.

The Agency's Chief Executive Officer, Antionette Whyte, said that the event demonstrated the success that can be yielded when there are strong partnerships forged between government, its entities and emerging businesses.

Stakeholders present included the Department of Science and Innovation, Technology and Innovation Agency (TIA) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Council (CSIR).

Lemvelo Cosmetic Products is the brainchild of a Co-operative from UMzimkhulu, the DMT Agricultural Cooperative, which has developed the new cosmetic product line from Rose Geranium (Pelargonium graveolens).

Speaking at the event Whyte said she was excited to see the synergy between the beauty and the skin care industry. Whyte said that the agency committed itself to assisting in the growth and sustainability of the enterprise

by identifying key areas of growth, ensuring that the primary production is augmented, sourcing funding and facilitating access to business models and local and international markets.

The DMT Agricultural Co-op was founded in the year 2008 and has been operating from Nooitgedacht Farm in Umzimkhulu. Currently they have essential oils, producing cosmetic products with CSIR using nanotechnology as part of the latest offering. They are involved with other essential oils growers in building the essential oil industry in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. They have a range of products that include bar soaps, bath oils and lotions with essential oils as an ingredient.

They had previously created over 50 jobs in the rural Ward 11 community of Kwa-Meyi under the UMzimkhulu Local Municipality.

The handover marks the completion of the research and development work as well as the handover of the market samples and formulation file to the co-op. The co-op will then begin marketing and selling the products to the various markets.



The hand over marks the completion of the research and development work and the handover of the market samples and formulation file to the co-op. The co-op is set to begin marketing and selling the products in various markets.



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

“Together We Deliver and Grow”

Customer Care Line: Tel: 0860103651
Cellphone: +27 (60) 570-6193
Email: customer-care@harrygwalaadm.gov.za

 @Harry Gwala District Municipality
 @GwalaHarry



WhatsApp Line Launched

Harry Gwala District Municipality endures its efforts to advance customer engagement and service delivery. The Municipality has added WhatsApp as an additional reporting channel. This is an additional reporting tool that can be used by customers to contact the Municipality's Call Centre. WhatsApp is regarded as one of the more convenient forms of communication. WhatsApp can be used for service requests, and to report complaints such as water and sewer complaints or any of the other services rendered by the Harry Gwala District Municipality, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week.

What should you include in your message?

- Your name and surname
- Street address, including suburb, or village
- You can also include a photo if applicable

Similar to when you report these issues over the telephone, your WhatsApp complaint or service request will be logged into the complaints management system and you will be issued with a reference number via SMS. This reference number can be used to follow up on an unresolved complaint or request.

The WhatsApp number is 0605706193, alternatively use the customer care number 0860106351, or send an email to customer-care@harrygwalaadm.gov.za.



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CUSTOMER ROADSHOW A BIG SUCCESS!



Underberg community members took advantage of the customer services road show and came in numbers to enquire as well as to sort out their water and sanitation bills. Councillors from the Harry Gwala District Municipality as well as the District employees were on hand to assist the community members.

HARRY Gwala District Municipality hosted a successful Customer Services Roadshow in the Underberg Town with community members coming out in their large numbers to utilize the roadshow to seek clarity on their bills. This platform allowed customers to speak directly to municipal officials in raising any issues pertaining to their bills or their service delivery queries.

The roadshows were utilized to create awareness to consumers on water and sanitation services. These Roadshows provided a platform for the community members, business and other stakeholders to interface

with the municipality and discuss water issues as well as billing. This also allowed the municipality to disseminate information as well as enabled the municipality to receive consumer complaints from the remote areas which cannot easily access the municipal offices.

The roadshow was attended by Councillors, management, officials and various stakeholders.

An emphasis was on consumer awareness, dealing with service related queries, amnesty program which ended in September, updating residents' information, indigent registration, debt arrangements and reporting of any water and sanitation queries.

Successful District Development Model Political Hub meeting



District Development Model (DDM) political hub meeting held at UMzimkhulu Municipality's council chambers was a huge success.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality recently held a District Development Model (DDM), Political hub meeting at UMzimkhulu Municipality Council Chambers.

The DDM approach advocates for institutionalisation of District hubs for shared services, capacitated with the necessary expertise for communal usage.

This model is part of government interventions which are aimed at accelerating service delivery.

All departments and stakeholders were represented at the meeting.

District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, who chaired the meeting said that coming together for the DDM meeting

must reap fruitful results.

“It would be useless if we all meet here and nothing is done for the people. Resolutions and decisions taken here must acted on and must be followed up until they are resolved,” said Mayor Nxumalo

The meeting was joined virtually by the Deputy Minister of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Mr. Obed Bapela, Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) CEO Mr.Ntandazo Vimba, Mr Vikani Mthintsho special advisor to the Minister of Gogta, Dr. Nkosazan Dlamini-Zuma and Dr. Sifiso Ngcobo advisor to Cogta's Deputy Minister



PROJECT PROFILE

RAISING OF KEMPSDALE DAM WALL

PROJECT NAME: CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAISING OF KEMPSDALE DAM WALL AND UPGRADING OF PUMP STATION: CIVIL, STRUCTURAL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL WORKS

Project location

The project is in the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality which falls within the jurisdiction of the Harry Gwala District Municipality. The project mainly targets water supply in the Kokstad area.

Background

Kokstad town currently receives its portable water needs from three water sources namely ground water, crystal springs dam and the uMzintlava river system. Water is conveyed through the existing bulk water infrastructure which feeds into the 18Ml Water Treatment Works (WTWs). The existing WTW is currently operating below its design capacity at about 12Ml/d due to water resource challenges. There are several projects under way to improve the water resource challenges, name the Kokstad rising main project which is at close out stage. This project, Raising of the KempSDale dam, is aimed at doubling the current dam storage and water abstraction from the river system.

Due to the water resource challenges in the water supply system, this has led to water restriction within Kokstad town and the surrounding areas where the water system is shut down between 9am and 4pm daily to allow the existing water storage reservoirs to fill up. The project will benefit the residents in the Kokstad area of the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality in the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

This project will also further provide surety of water supply in Kokstad town till 2040 and help stimulate growth in the town and surrounding areas and will also aid in increasing economic activities in the town. Currently there are a lot of commercial and residential developments that are currently on hold due to the water shortages in the town and there are other areas like Horseshoe that have been upgraded to have full water borne sanitation but have not been commissioned successful due the water challenges. Therefor the Raising of the KempSDale dam project will have far greater social and economic benefits in the area.

The municipality further seeks to create work opportunities through the employment of local labour under the EPWP guidelines using labour intensive construction techniques where safety measures allow. The municipality also seeks to empower local emerging businesses through careful subcontracting. Subcontracting will however be initiated once the municipality, main contractor and consultants have identified the work packages to be subcontracted to ensure that nominated subcontractors have a clear scope and explicit expectations.

The Raising of the KempSDale dam project will be funded by the Municipal Infrastructure Grant through the Project Management Unit under Harry Gwala District Municipality and will take about 24 months to complete.

Harry Gwala Mayor removes Mayoral gown from Kokstad Mayor



Dignitaries including Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, MM Mr. G.H Sineke and former Kokstad Mayor Mr. Bheki Mtolo, gathered in an event to symbolically remove Mtolo of his Mayoral gown and chain as well as to wish him well in his new position as the ANC Provincial Secretary.



The Kokstad MM Mr. Sipho Zwane wishes Mtolo well in his new political endeavours



The Harry Gwala District Mayor Z.D Nxumalo and Mayor's from local municipalities within the District, UBuhlebezwe Mayor, E.B Ngubo, UMzimkhulu Mayor Cllr. J. Msiya and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Cllr. S. Msomi ceremoniously removing the mayoral chain from former Greater Kokstad Municipality Mayor, Bheki Mtolo.



THE Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr. Z.D. Nxumalo was the chosen one to ceremoniously remove the Mayoral chain and gown from the former Greater Kokstad Municipal Mayor, B.M. Mtolo and therefore officially releasing him from his duties as the political head of the local municipality and wishing him all the best in his new endeavors.

The District Mayor undertook this honour during the send-off functions to bid Mtolo farewell recently as he assumed the responsibilities of being the provincial secretary of the ruling party in KwaZulu-Natal.

Nxumalo as the District Mayor, has powers vested in him to ensure that there is no political vacuum nor instability in the local municipalities within the District through playing a significant political oversight role of ensuring functionality and necessary interventions to unblock challenges that may halt service delivery in local municipalities.

Cllr Nxumalo was part of the guest speakers of the day to bid Mtolo farewell in Kokstad where he revealed that he has been Mtolo's friend over and above being political comrades.

"I met Mtolo many years ago during a Regional Executive Committee Meeting (REC). During this meeting he was straightening out some of the members that were out of line," said Cllr Nxumalo.

He added their friendship grew to a point where they had a relationship that went to the extent of teaching him {Mtolo} how to drive a car. "We both worked in the offices of the then Mayors," Cllr Nxumalo said.

He congratulated Mtolo for ascending to the

provincial office, saying: "You have done your best in Kokstad. You have put the Municipality on the map as it is one of the leading Municipalities countrywide when it comes to functionality and financial viability".

He said it is a known fact that when Mtolo does well in his new post he will be lobbied for higher positions in his political party. He said this is the reason why Mtolo has been given a huge task of leading the entire KwaZulu-Natal Province.

"We worked together... he is determined in whatever he does and is a person who is always keen to learn and still prioritises education," said Cllr Nxumalo.

He urged other Councillors to also take education very seriously and develop themselves through education because it does not have an age limit.

Cllr Nxumalo also echoed the sentiments of the former KwaZulu-Natal Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, iNkosi Phathisizwe Chiliza and also the current chairperson of the Traditional House in the Harry Gwala District who also took to the podium during the farewell and stressed that Mtolo's dispensation from the Mayoral position should not in any way create a fight over positions that would be opened up in the Council.

He said the Greater Kokstad Municipality should continue maintaining the unity that it is known for and work for the people it serves.

He added Mtolo is their hope in championing the issue of land in the higher structures of the ruling party, adding that some leaders have tended to waffle when dealing with this important matter as if they are eating hot potatoes.

New Board Members for Harry Gwala Development Agency



The Harry Gwala Development Agency introduces the new board members.

HARRY Gwala District Municipality Mayor, Councillor Z.D Nxumalo announced the inclusion of the new members to the Board of Directors for the Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA) for the period 2022 - 2025.

The Board of Directors, Ms. Confidence Slindile Nqoko (Chairperson), Mr. Ntethelelo Khanyile, Ms. Siphumelele Balungile Dlungwane, Mr. Bongani Mzwakhe Mhlongo and Mr. Sthembiso Ishmael Mbhele, were constituted and inducted on their legislative mandates and their responsibilities by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA).

In his welcoming remarks, the Mayor stated that the Board was selected on merit and they come with them with a wide array of competences.

He indicated that it was critical that the Board forges a strong working relationship with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Agency, Ms Antionette Whyte who is acclaimed for her fundraising and investment abilities together with a competency in crafting strategic documents thus negating the need to appoint consultants.

The use of consultants must be reduced drastically, said the Mayor, as this has always been the view of the government. He said that now that the Agency is realising functionality under the guidance of the CEO, it is hoped that the purpose of the Agency, which is to grow the economy, will now finally be realised.

Joined by Exco Members, Chairpersons of Standing Committees, the Municipal Manager Mr. Gamakulu Sineke, Harry Gwala District management, congratulatory wishes were extended to the Board.



Former Kokstad Speaker Cllr. Lwanda Madikizela was recently elected as the new Mayor.

Harry Gwala Mayor applauds election of new Kokstad Mayor

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor, Councillor Z.D. Nxumalo has both welcomed and applauded the Kokstad Council for being united behind the election of the new Mayor to take up the position of being the institution's political head.

Former Greater Kokstad Municipality Speaker, Cllr Lwanda Mdikizela was recently elected to take up the Mayoral position.

Madikizela's election was uncontested as even the opposition parties in the Municipality Council showed they support him in taking over the position of Mayor.

His ascendancy to the Mayoral position came after the former Kokstad Mayor, Cllr B.M.Mtolo resigned following his election to the position of provincial secretary by his political party, the African National Congress (ANC).

Madikizela's election also meant that the position of Speaker immediately became vacant and the Councillors voted for Bheki Nozaza to take up the position.

Speaking to the Harry Gwala Newsletter, Cllr Nxumalo said the leadership of the ruling party has put its hopes on the elected leaders based on their proven track records and documented commitment in working

for the people and being able to work in unity.

The Councillors are not new to the council and have gained vast experience during Mtolo's tenure.

He said they know Mtolo leaves behind an enviable legacy and huge shoes to fill, however since the Councillors have worked and learnt from him, it will not be a big challenge for them to continue where he left off.

Cllr Nxumalo also appealed to the Kokstad community to continue taking part in the programmes of the Local Municipality and work with the new Mayor as they did with Mtolo.

"We know most of you are used to working with Mtolo but now things have changed and Cllr Madikizela will have his way of leading, that is why we appeal to you as the community to adjust to the leadership style of the new Mayor," said Cllr Nxumalo. He said the new Mayor might make mistakes but he will learn through them and improve with the community's support for a better Kokstad.

He added Kokstad is the economic hub of the District and they cannot afford to take it backward after the hard work of attracting investors and big businesses that are now operating in Kokstad.



A successful operation Mbo held in Kokstad. Community members came in their large numbers to listen to different the programmes from Departments.

OPERATION MBO

The Harry Gwala District Municipality held a successful public service week under Operation Mbo through Operation Sukuma Sakhe. This District's Operation Mbo was held at the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality in Shayamoya Hall Ward 10. All provincial government sector departments were present to provide services to the public and also help fight social ills within the District.



Operation Mbo – a provincial initiative that seeks to take services to the people.

‘S’O very supportive and extremely hands-on.” These were the words used by the members of the public to describe the Head of Department Champion for Harry Gwala District, Mr Mdu Zungu and the officials he led by during the 6th day of the Public Service Monitoring and Evaluation Week. The Head of Department has been the Operation Sukuma Sakhe HOD Champion in this District for barely a month after previously being deployed as the Champion for Zululand District.

Mr Zungu was accompanied by the Political Leadership led by the Deputy Mayor of the Greater Kokstad Local, Cllr. KJ. Walker; Office of the Minister Champion, Deputy Director General, Mr. Henk Serfontein; Harry Gwala District and the sister local municipalities led by Mrs. T.T. Thiyane- Magaqa; Provincial Convener, Ms. K. Sithole; Harry Gwala DTT and LTT led by Deputy Chairperson, Mr. V. Xulu and senior management members from all sector departments deployed in the Harry Gwala District.

The visit and community engagement was part of

Operation Mbo – a provincial initiative that takes services to the people.

The Departments of Home Affairs, SASSA, Social Development, Agriculture and Rural Development and Health were amongst the departments that also provided frontline services to the community.

The team also rolled up their sleeves in frontline service delivery points in all local municipalities under the District, to visit and unlock challenges in projects, such as the Ibisi Community Garden, Cabhane Bridge, Thubalethu Housing Project, Bulwer CSC, the P417 Provincial road and many more.

The visits to the projects and the community engagements served as active mechanisms to unblock bottlenecks and red-tapes in the delivery of services and to ensure that public resources are used efficiently to the benefit of citizens. This initiative also served to strengthen the implementation of the District Development Model and integration, collaboration and participation within government.



The Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development - Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu's address on the closing of the 9-9-9 Campaign held in Kokstad. The Deputy Minister pleaded with pregnant mothers not to drink while expecting their bundles of joy.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FASD), campaign concluded on world foetal alcohol syndrome day

THE community of Kokstad called for the intervention of social workers to mitigate against the rising number of cases of babies born with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). This took the spotlight at the commemoration of International FAS Day, held in Kokstad Town Hall where the Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development - Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, marked the closing of the 9-9-9 Campaign with her remarks.

The campaign, which was launched by the Deputy Minister on 1 September in 2019, aims to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy which includes giving birth to a baby with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD).

This year, the campaign, which took place over nine consecutive days in nine provinces, was kick-started in Ladybrand in the Free State Province.

Among some of the speakers present at the closing dialogue were mothers who confessed to drinking during their pregnancies but asked for urgent assistance from social workers and the community because they said they realised that they were putting their unborn babies at risk of being born with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome through alcohol consumption.

One such attendee was a 32-year-old mother from Bhongweni. "I drink because I am extremely stressed. I fell pregnant by error and the father of my unborn baby has blocked me from communicating with him. He said he wants nothing to do with me or the baby. I tried to terminate the pregnancy but I was already three months and one day pregnant so the health professional refused for me to undertake the termination. I need all the help from social workers that I can get because I often drink just so I can sleep my problems away. There are no social support groups for pregnant women in this area and we are desperate for them," she said.

The Deputy Minister was joined by Dr Guru Kistnasamy from the Central Drug Authority (CDA) which is a Social Development arm mandated to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP 2019 - 2024).

"Research indicates that at least three million of our population is affected by FASD. Out of 187 countries, South Africa has the highest prevalence rate of the disorder," said Dr Kistnasamy adding that the 9-9-9 advocacy campaign should be extended to schools, tertiary institutions, health care facilities and places where alcohol is sold.



The commemoration of International FAS Day was held in the Kokstad Town Hall by the Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development, Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu. Community members, pregnant mothers and community leaders from various local municipalities were in attendance.





Heritage Month welcomed

Harry Gwala District Municipality Council substituted their formal attire and opted to clad in their traditional apparel to celebrate Heritage Month wherein they further encouraged communities to pride themselves of their diverse cultures. The council was colourful with Xhosa traditional wear, Zulu garments and beads as well as eastern wear. Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo applauded the council for making a decision to wear traditional clothing to embrace different cultures.







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