



2023

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 2



Together we Deliver and Grow



Harry Gwala District Municipality



@harrygwala



@harrygwala



www.harrygwalam.gov.za

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial Note	04
Mayor's Foreword	05
Municipal Manager's Foreword	07
Council and Committees	08
How Harry Gwala District Municipality Maintains Good Water Quality	10
The 2023/24 Annual Budget: The Mayor's Pride	11
Harry Gwala District Marathon 2023	15
Harry Gwala District Mayor Honoured during Official Launch of New uBuhlebezwe Offices	18
Mayor Emphasizes the Importance of Integrated Development Plan Roadshows	20
The Harry Gwala District Communicators' Forum Welcomes New Member	22
Harry Gwala District Hosts the EPWP Activation	23
Informal and Micro Enterprise Development: Programme (IMEDP) Handovers in Harry Gwala District	24
Mayor Nxumalo takes his "hat" off to national leadership prioritising rural municipalities	25
Municipal Grants Expenditure	26
Youth Mobile Office	27
The Purpose of Fire Awareness at the Workplace	28
Youth Council Structure to Prioritise Youth Development	29
Putting an End to Social Ills	30
Amakhosi Disaster Management Workshop	31
Mec Khoza called on Residents of uMzimkhulu to Stand With Government	32
The District Bids Farewell to the Executive Manager	33
Harry Gwala District Marathon Media Launch	34

We appealing to all South Africans to register to vote so that they participate in the national elections in 2024



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza
Communications Manager

WELCOME to our publication once again. This is our last publication for this financial year 2022/ 23. Thank you for being part of us since the beginning of this financial year since our publication is produced quarterly basis. This newsletter is a platform used to report to you on the progress of our municipality in is as far as service delivery is concerned.

We are pleased to report that we have had fruitful engagements with you as our stakeholders through Integrated Development Plan (IDP) roadshows mandated by the legislation. Chapter 4, Section 16(A) of Local Government Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 200 provides that “a municipality must develop a culture of municipal governance that complements formal representative government with a system of participatory governance and must for this purpose encourage and create conditions for the local community to participate in the affairs of the municipality including the preparation, implementation, and review of its integrated development plan”.

In compliance with this legislation, we have partnered with our sister municipalities and had an engagement with all stakeholders including traditional leaders. In these platforms we were able to assess the effectiveness of service delivery we have made and the services that we must render. Our last engagements with our communities before the municipal council adopted the budget reflected an upward trend toward the engaged citizenry we are aspiring to be.

Transparency and accountability remain our core principles at Harry Gwala District Municipality. Having held a successful open council in Kokstad municipality on 30 May 2023 attests to that. We are hoping that the amount of budget adopted in the open will address service delivery challenges in our communities. We extend our sincere appreciation to the community of Kokstad for being part of the council that adopted the annual budget for the year 2023/24. As you are aware our core mandate is water and sanitation; however, we are involved in other service delivery activities like sports, as a result, we have partnered with sector departments and our sister municipalities to deliver such services.

We have recently had a successful 42 km marathon which runs between uMzimkhulu and uBuhlebezwe municipalities alternately. The 8th Harry Gwala Marathon had maximum participation from athletes all over South Africa and abroad. We appreciate the support from the communities of these two municipalities. The support that we get from our communities goes beyond sporting events, as we are witnessing the same spirit in government izimbizo. On Mach 2023 the Department of Minerals and Energy hosted the Mining imbizo at the Madungeni area under uBuhlebezwe local municipality. With the high number of people who attended the event, we are now viewed as the government of the people.

I conclude by appealing to all South Africans in particular those who are from the district of Harry Gwala to register to vote so that they participate in the national elections in 2024 and form the public opinion.



MISS NONTUTHUKO NGUBANE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)

MR LINDOKUHLE CHILIZA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: REGIONAL
COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR (GCIS)

MISS FEZILE MNGONYAMA
COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Commemorating Youth Day

GREETINGS to the community of Harry Gwala District!

First and foremost, let me congratulate the youth of our District for having progressively commemorated and observed the important Day by conducting educational programmes that coincide with our mission of fighting against social ills whereby we encourage, on an ongoing basis, young people to refrain from spending the day in taverns figuratively swimming in pools of alcohol as such incidents reap negative and depressing results wherein some people stab each other to death while under the influence.

We must always remember the meaning of the day, which occurred on June 16 in 1976. The Youth Day means a lot to the democracy that all of us enjoy today although we have yet to fulfil all that was envisaged by the Freedom Charter. Technically we are not so far off. We have attained most of the things enshrined in the Freedom Charter; moreover, we are closer as a country to attaining the fundamentals of the fight by the youth of 1976.

Importantly and always, we must remember that the issue of land to the people and that the country's economy should not only be in the hands of the minority but to the rest of all who live in it should always premise our unilateral definition of freedom.

Youth Day is an important day for our country as it is the day that our marginalized youth of yesteryear stood ground against the atrocities of apartheid and demanded quality education which has been and remains an important pillar towards one's success.

Let us revive the spirit of the youth of June 16 1976 by emulating their bravery and curve today's youths' trajectory by encouraging and supporting them to be progressive in their thinking and to have visions that are not only achievable but must contribute towards lasting change in our communities.

With this, I am saying we should never forget the sweat, tears and blood of our youth fighters that were flowing on the streets of Orlando in Soweto when the likes of the gallant fighters like Tsietsi Mashinini, Hector Peterson, Seth Mazibuko, Mbuyisa Makhubo and many more were brutally killed for fighting for the right to an improved and non-inferior education system.

Our youth of today have their struggles and they must unite to triumph. There has been no revolution that was fought and overcome without young people.

Today, I am happy to announce that we as the Harry Gwala District Municipality are paving the way in opening all channels to benefit the youth of the District and we do not only want them to benefit



His Worship the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo



We have just embraced the formation of the Youth Council, which we believe would be a vehicle and a key to open the doors for the future amongst the youth in terms of job creation and youth development.



but to be in charge of their destiny.

We have just embraced the formation of the Youth Council, which we believe would be a vehicle and a key to open the doors for the future amongst the youth in terms of job creation and youth development.

In response to that we have just introduced a Youth Mobile Office that would rotate to all corners of our District resolving youth challenges that are a stumbling block to their progression and opening up



MAYORS IN THE DISTRICT (from left to right) UBuhlebezwe Mayor Cllr. E.B Ngubo, Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, UMzimkhulu Mayor Cllr. J. Msiya, Greater Kokstad Mayor Cllr. L. Madikizela welcoming the new youth mobile car which will assist the youth in the District

business opportunities.

We have just set aside a budget mainly focussing on Youth Development. We continue to bring them to the forefront through our government programmes. We conduct Youth Summits in the District that is the form of training them in different business aspects, starting from drafting business plans to sourcing funding to run sustainable businesses and create job opportunities.

UBuhlebezwe Municipality open new offices: Former Mayors honoured

It was a one in a million honour to be part of the launch of the new offices of the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, one of the sister Municipalities within our District.

There are few moments like these in one’s life where a person is commended and recognized at that level. It was truly an honour as the Municipality led by Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr EB Ngubo paid tribute to Mayors before her in her Municipality and I, as the longest serving Mayor of that local municipalities, was mentioned for contributing to the change that has taken place since the formation of local government in its current form. This was in the presence of the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the province, MPL Bongsi Sithole-Moloi.

Ours is for the advancement of the developmental needs of our people and we will continue to strive while we are afforded the opportunity by our organization.

Catalytic Projects

During the tabling of the 2023-24 annual budget, I mentioned that our Municipality is proud of further allocating funds for Kempisdale. The project has already commenced with the feasible study being undertaken to ensure that Kokstad has an uninterrupted supply of water for years to come.

This dam will be a backup for Kokstad during dry seasons with the intentions of also boosting the economy of that town through e ensuring that our systems are all in place to posture the strength of th4 area as an investment destination of choice for investors with unique appetite for expanding their investment portfolios.

One of the catalytic projects that we have planned for the 2023-24 financial year is the new electricity generation capacity project through hydropower, which is currently underway. This project will be a welcomed relief for the people of Harry Gwala in terms of improving electricity supply especially during the times of loadshedding.

In the 2023/2024 financial year we will continue in our quest of improving the lives of our people.

Ours as the administration is to implement the programmes and projects requested by communities



Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke
Municipal Manager

By the time the latest edition of the Harry Gwala District Municipality's newsletter comes out for public consumption, the 2023/2024 financial year would have been in full swing and our District would already be on the ground finalizing processes to implement programmes and projects in the various local municipalities within our district.

The compilation of the 2023/2024 annual budget led us to host an open council meeting in the Greater Kokstad Municipality where HGDM Mayor, Cllr ZD Nxumalo as guided by the legislation, namely the Constitution of our Republic, the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), the Municipal Systems Act as well as the guiding circulars from the National and Provincial Treasury Departments, the budget was discussed with the public and the budget was approved for the financial year 2023/2024.

Ours as the administration is to implement the programmes and projects requested by communities and henceforth the political arm of the Municipality, the Councillors, through relevant portfolio committees, the Executive Committee and Council will monitor progress as they exercise their oversight role.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality has projected the allocation of its internal capital funding allocations for the next three financial years as R 28 557 130 million, R 14 080 571 million and R 15 027 917 million respectively.

The total allocation for projects that are our core mandates to be implemented in all local municipalities within HGDM are:

- R 306 141 142 million in 2023/2024 financial year

- R 324 553 646 million in 2024/2025
- R 325 278 458 million in 2025/2026

Presented below are the significant structures of the 2023/2024 tabled budget that are fundamentals for us to be able to deliver services.

Revenue by Source

- The original approved revenue for the 2022/23 budget amounts to R875 million.
- The 2023/2024 consolidated revenue projected is set at R927, 3 million.

Capital expenditure

The capital budget of R306, 1 million has been allocated for the 2023/24 financial year which is 4% per cent more when compared to the 2022/23 Adjustment Budget. The increase is due to the increase of grants gazetted for the 2023/24 financial year, and this is going to have a positive impact on the service delivery and will improve the backlog of water and sanitation within the District. The capital programme increased from R295, 3 million to R306, 1 million in the 2023/24 financial year and R314, 5 million in the 2024/25 financial year and increased again in the 2025/26 financial year to R 315, 2 million. The capital budget is largely funded from the Government Grants and Subsidies in the MTREF.

To all employees of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, from Directors to general workers, we must up the tempo, we must not tire, we must not relent instead we must thrive and triumph. Our task is pivotal for growth and development within our district.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



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



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



MR. NKULULEKO BIYASE
Infrastructure Services /
Acting Director:
Water Services

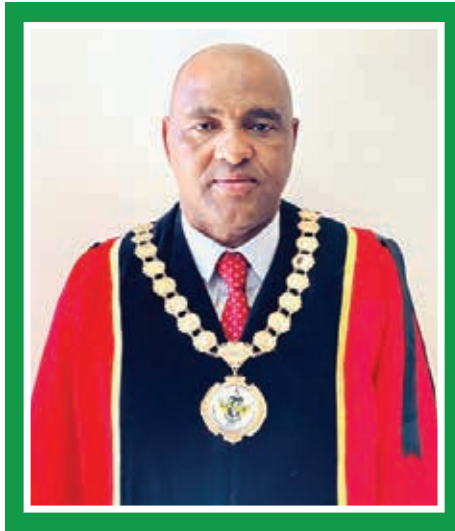


**MRS. THOBILE
THELMA
THIYANE-MAGAQA**
Corporate Services

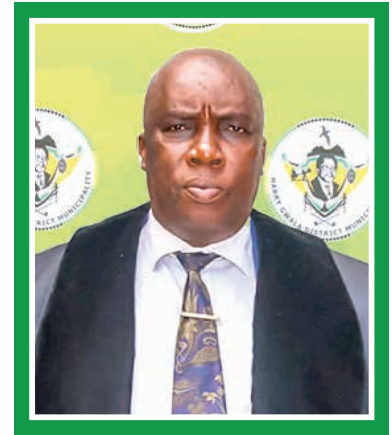
HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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



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



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



**HONORABLE CHIEF-WHIP
CLLR. N. MHATU**



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



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



**EXCO MEMBER
CLLR. Z. TSHANGASE**



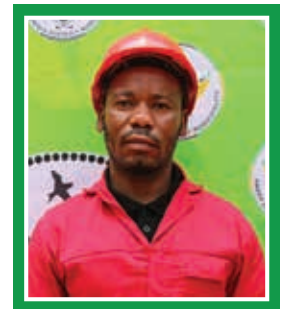
CLLR. T.G. SONI



CLLR. T.S.H. GAMEDE



CLLR. S.G. MKHIZE



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 P.D.H. CHILIZA



INKOSI V.V. ZIMEMA



INKOSI M.S.I. ZULU



IMPORTANCE OF WATER QUALITY

Water quality is important because it assures that the end users will remain healthy and well-functioning if proper standards are maintained.

HOW HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY MAINTAINS Good Water Quality

IN South Africa, the management and monitoring of drinking water quality are governed by policies and regulations based on international standards. Water Service Authorities, which are district municipalities, are required to submit information regarding water quality and the management thereof regularly to the National Blue Drop System (BDS) now known as IRIS. Since 2009, a trend has emerged in which many municipalities have shown improvement in their water quality management whilst some of the rural and under-resourced municipalities are falling behind. A major concern has been that rural municipalities are failing to report the required information and are not complying with some of the regulator's requirements that speak to the overall management of water quality monitoring rather than the actual water quality itself. This means HGDM quality of water cannot be judged using the Blue Drop status because the Blue Drop status is a combination of many other aspects of water quality management.

The quality of potable water is important to Harry Gwala District Municipality, thus the organisation endeavours to ensure that the quality of potable water produced within its operational area is safe for human consumption. In order to achieve this, Harry Gwala DM in its capacity as a water services authority ensures that all the water treatment plants under its jurisdiction are kept in good condition by developing

and implementing mitigation plans and site-specific incident management protocols to manage water incidents and non-compliances. This includes the annual water treatment works process audits which examine the functionality of each unit process of the treatment plant. A risk-based monitoring program is also developed through water safety plans. The risk-based monitoring program is site-specific and outlines the water quality determinants that need to be tested and analysed daily and monthly to ensure that the water provided to communities is fit for human consumption.

All potable water sampling and analysis are taken in accordance with the certified monitoring programme and accredited laboratory methods, corrective measures are taken when the results of water analysis do not meet the required standards. Consumption of microbial-contaminated water can result in diarrheal illnesses and enteropathy with the heaviest impact on children. HGDM aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of water quality in the district.

HGDM does not only prioritise big water supply systems for water quality but also prioritises rural schemes, boreholes, and springs. With the boreholes that are drilled for communities to access basic water, inline dosing or disinfection is initiated depending on the water quality results as analysed by accredited water. With spring water, where there is a need for disinfection, the municipality initiates this process.



Mayor Z.D Nxumalo addresses the public during the open council meeting held in Kokstad. Officials, managers and the public packed the hall during the open council.

The 2023/24 Annual Budget: The Mayor's Pride

The Harry Gwala District Mayor Councillor Z.D Nxumalo has patted his Municipality on the back about the close to a billion rand 2023/24 annual budget, which he termed a “solution to the challenges of the people”

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo has termed the 2023/24 annual budget a “solution to the challenges” of the people within the District as it seeks to tackle the challenges of water and sanitation in the region head-on.

Cllr Nxumalo said this when presenting the R 909, 6 million overall budget for the 2023/24 financial year, which was tabled without objections from Council members.

The Municipality tabled the budget in Kokstad at the eBhongweni Youth Centre on Tuesday (30 May 2023), under the municipality’s new initiative of rotating to all sister Municipalities when tabling the District’s budget as part of promoting enhanced inter-governmental relations within the District

The budget is set to serve the more than 554

thousand population across the District and the community of Horseshoe Township in Kokstad has a far greater reason to smile as the good news from the District is that the pit latrine toilets will be soon phased out in favour of flushable toilets.

Moreover, the District Mayor, Cllr ZD Nxumalo said he is proud of his Municipality for further allocating funds for the Kempsdale dam project in the next financial year. The Mayor said the project has already commenced with the feasible study being undertaken to ensure that Kokstad has uninterrupted water supply for years to come.

This dam will be a backup for Kokstad during dry seasons with the intentions of also boosting the town’s economy by inviting investors to come and plough their money and to start businesses without fear of drought as the town is currently the economic hub of the District and is fast-growing.

Cllr Nxumalo revealed that another new electricity generation capacity project through hydropower is underway, which will be a relief for residents amid the limping supply of electricity from Eskom. Cllr Nxumalo also urged the communities to use electricity sparingly.

With the huge chunk of the budget, totalling R494.2 million allocated for the District’s operations,

an allocation of R 321, 3 million has been set aside for technical grants and subsidies.

The Municipality's revenue collection is sitting at R94,1 million, included in this are government departments and local businesses.

The overall total budget, which includes an

allocation for the Harry Gwala District Agency tallies to R927,3 million with Municipality's equitable share sitting at R463 631,00 million.

The Municipality's Infrastructure Grant is R235.7 million and the Water Services Infrastructure Grant on the other hand is R100 million.

Presented below are the significant structures of the 2023/2024 tabled budget

Revenue by Source

The original approved revenue for the 2022/23 budget amounts to R875m. The 2023/2024 consolidated revenue is at R927,3 million. Total revenue for the consolidated municipality has increased by 6% or R52,3 million for the 2023/24 financial year when

compared to the 2022/23 Adjustments Budget. For the two outer years, operational revenue increased by 7% and 3% respectively, equating to a total revenue growth of R101,3m over the MTREF when compared to the 2022/23 financial year.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY-REVENUE BY MUNICIPAL VOTE						
Vote Description	Current Year 2022/23			2023/24 Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework		
	Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	Full Year Forecast	Budget Year 2023/24	Budget Year +1 2024/25	Budget Year +2 2025/26
R thousand						
Revenue by Vote						
Vote 03 - Summary Budget And Treasury Office	438 660	441 238	441 238	470 822	501 597	529 351
Vote 04 - Summary Corporate Services	-	245	245	372	-	-
Vote 05 - Summary Social Services & Development Planning	17 180	17 009	17 009	17 654	18 675	19 757
Vote 06 - Summary Infrastructure Services	337 554	335 869	335 869	354 861	386 489	387 736
Vote 07 - Summary Water Services	72 370	80 651	80 651	83 613	87 710	91 832
Total Revenue by Vote	865 764	875 012	875 012	927 322	994 470	1 028 676

Operating expenditure by vote & type

Total operating expenditure for the 2023/24 financial year is at R684, 1million. When compared to the 2022/23 Adjustments Budget, operational expenditure has increased by 7% per cent or R 45, 9m in the 2023/24 budget. The operating deficit for the 2023/24 increased from R81, 3million in 2022/23 financial year to R 107, 7million in 2023/24 and increased for the outer years to R 199, 3million. The amount for non-cash items which is depreciation in 2023/24 financial year is at R96, 2m and provision

for bad debts and debt written off is at R58, 7million. If the municipality is taking out non-cash items there is a surplus of R 55, 6million.

The employees related costs for 2023/24 financial year is at R250, 2m and councillor's remuneration costs will amount to R8, 1m in 2023/2024 financial year R6m for Development Agency and in accordance with existing salary agreement signed between the employer and labour. The percentage for salary increases is 5.3% based on the calculation of CPI inflation as per the MFMA circular 123.

Vote Description	Current Year 2022/23			2023/24 Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework		
	Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	Full Year Forecast	Budget Year 2023/24	Budget Year +1 2024/25	Budget Year +2 2025/26
R thousand						
Expenditure by Vote to be appropriated						
Vote 01 - Summary Council	18 963	19 787	19 787	19 937	20 902	21 851
Vote 02 - Summary Municipal Manager	23 904	22 953	22 953	22 917	24 020	25 142
Vote 03 - Summary Budget And Treasury Office	83 148	86 578	86 578	90 559	94 872	99 417
Vote 04 - Summary Corporate Services	91 438	89 852	89 852	86 586	90 296	94 491
Vote 05 - Summary Social Services & Development Planning	72 345	69 988	69 988	75 394	79 255	83 207
Vote 07 - Summary Water Services	109 944	111 077	111 077	128 353	126 996	133 000
Vote 06 - Summary Infrastructure Services	208 092	237 951	237 951	260 408	272 845	285 635
Total Expenditure by Vote	607 834	638 187	638 187	684 154	709 185	742 743
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	257 930	236 825	236 825	243 167	285 285	285 933



The full council had a photo shoot after a successful open council meeting. Managers and officials from Harry Gwala District Municipality also had a photoshoot after a successful open council meeting.

Capital expenditure

The capital budget of R306, 1million for 2023/24 is 4% per cent more when compared to the 2022/23 Adjustment Budget. The increase is due to the increase of grants gazzetted for the 2023/24 financial year, and this is going to have a positive impact on the service delivery and will improve the backlog of

water and sanitation within the district. The capital programme increased from R295, 3million to R306, 1million in the 2023/24 financial year and R314, 5million in 2024/25 financial year and increased again in 2025/26 financial year to R 315, 2million. The capital budget is largely funded from the Government Grants and Subsidies in the MTREF.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY-REVENUE BY MUNICIPAL VOTE							
Vote Description	Current Year 2022/23				2023/24 Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework		
	Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	Full Year Forecast	Pre-audit outcome	Budget Year 2023/24	Budget Year +1 2024/25	Budget Year +2 2025/26
R thousand							
Capital expenditure - Vote							
Multi-year expenditure to be appropriated							
Vote 04 - Summary Corporate Services	9 902	8 605	8 605	839	9 641	5 922	6 200
Vote 05 - Summary Social Services & Development Planning	4 064	2 709	2 709	439	2 267	2 648	3 058
Vote 06 - Summary Infrastructure Services	52 522	38 676	38 676	16 789	55 292	59 491	48 783
Vote 07 - Summary Water Services	231 692	245 364	245 364	170 308	238 941	246 494	257 238
Vote 15 - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital multi-year expenditure sub-total	298 180	295 354	295 354	188 375	306 141	314 554	315 278

1. CAPEX

Table 3: Capital Budget by Type

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET
Water	R 209 142 990
Sanitation	R 68 441 022
Harry Gwala Development Agency	R 666 960
Office Equipment, Computers, Municipal Vehicles and Other	R 27 890 170
TOTAL	R 306 141 142

2023/2024 FINAL CAPITAL BUDGET

The total capital budget is R 306, 1m. This is largely funded from Municipal Infrastructure Grant and

Water Services Infrastructure Grant. There is no allocation for RBIG in the 2023/2024 financial year. This budget is exclusive of VAT.

Capital Distribution per Local Municipality

PROJECTS	BUDGET		
	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Kokstad	R 29 566 864	R 67 330 109	R 43 290 709
NDZ	R 67 291 698	R 103 093 439	R 120 593 973
Ubuhlebezwe	R 61 549 991	R 54 500 391	R 40 200 782
Umzimkhulu	R 119 175 459	R 75 549 136	R 96 165 077
Internal	R 28 557 130	R 14 080 571	R 15 027 917
Bulwer Dam & Surroundings	R 0	R 10 000 000	R 10 000 000
TOTAL	R 306 141 142	R 324 553 646	R 325 278 458



The Municipal Manager Mr. G.M Sineke walking with the Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo to start the proceedings for the open council. The theme for the day was black and white with a touch of red, which was respected by all.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MARATHON 2023



The Harry Gwala District Municipality held a successful Marathon with close to 500 participants.

IT was a dream come true for the Harry Gwala District born and bred athlete who took the second placed spot in this year's race, as he was running his debut race at home.

Sinethemba Tshangase (24) from uMzikhulu was received by Mayors of various municipalities within the District and his family at the finish line on Sunday (14 May 2023), after running the 42.2km segment of one of the fastest growing race in KwaZulu-Natal.

Seeing his family and realising that he had come in second place saw Tshangase not being able to hold his emotions and cried tears of joy.

"I would like to send my gratitude to everyone, I am so happy and It is my first time running a race at home and to actually come second. I didn't think it was possible. I am crying because I am so happy to see my family and everyone welcoming me at the finish line. It's a dream come true for me being able to finish in the top three finishers in my hometown," said Tshangase.

The race was won by Jobo Khatoane from Lesotho who ran in a time of 2:16:47, Tshangase ran in a time of 2:17:59 and in third place was Bonginkosi Mavuso who ran a time of 2:19:12.

Khatoane walked away with a R50 000 first prize, Tshangase took home R30 000 as a first runner-up and Mavuso R15 000.

In the Ladies race, Zinhle Shabalala won the race after crossing the finish line in 2:46:13, second place

Mswawenkosi Nsibande finished in 2:58:20 and in third was Jennifer Koech who ran who completed the race in 3:00:04.

Shabalala walked away with R50 000, Nsibande

R30 000 and Koech R15 000.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo said it was exciting that more participants in this race were from within the District and that more youth participation was welcomed.

"The marathon is growing each year and it is really exciting that more people from this District are entering the race. This year we saw an athlete from Mzimkhulu coming second, we are very happy for him and his family. We congratulate the winners of this race and all those that participated. Next year it will be bigger, and better," said Mayor Nxumalo.

Harry Gwala District Municipality partnered with uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, uMzimkhulu Local Municipality, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Genius Athletic Club and other stakeholders in hosting the Harry Gwala Marathon.

A total of 459 participants entered the race.

The race started in Highflats (R612), and the finish was at UMzimkhulu College.

Athletes in this marathon shared prize monies valued at more than R400 000.

The Race Director Celi Makhoba also congratulated all the athletes.

"I wish to congratulate those that participated in this 2023 edition of the Marathon. We also thank God as the weather was on our side which assisted athletes to run good times. Athletes received everything they needed on the route. This wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the dedication and commitment of the Organizing Committee. I would like to thank each and everyone that contributed to the success of this marathon," said Makhoba.



It was a joyous day at the Harry Gwala District Marathon, the winners were celebrated, and every participant had an amazing time. The Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo was excited with the growth of this race. People from all over South Africa, Lesotho and other countries were part of the race.



Mayors also participated on this race, as they too ran with the athletes to encourage them. More than R400 000 prizes were given to athletes who did exceptionally well.

HARRY GWALA MARATHON RESULTS

Males 42.2 km

1. Jobo Khatoane 2:16:47
2. Sinethemba Tshangase 2:17:59
3. Bonginkosi Mavuso 2:19:12
4. Sphamandla Nkosi 2:10:20
5. Phumlani Dlamini 2:21:43
6. Siboniso Skhakhane 2:23:15
7. Mholi Jali 2:25:13
8. Mfundo Chagwe 2:25:51
9. Tsepo Mathibelle 2:25:51
10. Siyabonga Nkonde 2:26:09

35 to 39

1. Luthando Hejana 2:37:25
2. Bongumusa Zondi 2:44:54
3. Thandokwakhe Ndlovu 3:07:15

40 to 49

1. Bareng Moqett 2:36:59
2. Justice Sawana 2:45:43
3. Mkhalseni Ndwalane 2:50:38

50 to 59

1. Michael Ndlovu 2:47:03

2. Mbongeni Sosibo 2:51:06
3. Theminkosi Gumde 3:10:54

60 to 69

1. Nkosi Ndlovu 3:20:36
2. Willie Majombozi 3:37:32
3. Bongani Ndlovu 3:40:26

Women 42.2km

1. Zinhle Shabalala 2:46:13
2. Mswawenkosi Nsibande 2:58:20
3. Jennifer Koech 3:00:04
4. Likeleli Majara 3:09:27
5. Refiloe Khechane 3:10:59
6. Banele Mabizela 3:12:57
7. Nokuthula Ntshangase 3:17:17
8. Leeketseng Molefe 3:18:09
9. Leneo Lebotla 3:23:04
10. Masoabi Tsoeu 3:30:36

35 to 39

1. Masoabi Tsoeu 3:30:36
2. Zodwa Magidigidi 3:35:53
3. Nkediseng Malongoana 4:29:05

40 to 49

1. Jennife Koech 3:00:04
2. Lieketseng Molefe 3:18:09
3. Lineo Lebolta 3:23:04

50 to 59

1. Hleziphi Ncayiyana 4:12:25
2. Thokozile Zulu 5:05:29
3. Zukiswa Kula 5:18:06

21.1km Open Men

1. Ayanda Ngcobo 1:02:00
2. Siphon Mbanjwa 1:02:45
3. Lungelo Khumalo 1:02:55
4. Teboho Noosi 1:03:32
5. Kabelo Lesia 1:05:21

21.1km Open Women

1. Jenet Mbhele 1:10:31
2. Mathakane Letsie 1:15:03
3. Nomasebesti Khajoane 1:17:19
4. Reitumetse Thethana 1:18:28
5. Andisiwe Njunga 1:19:09

10km Open Men

1. Sibusiso Kubheka 28:09
2. Pakiso Mthembu 28:17
3. Sbonelo Khumalo 28:56
4. Bongukwanda Shezi 29:55
5. Mluleki Mbatha 30:03
6. Thabiso Mnculwane 30:15
7. Andile Mbatha 30:25
8. Emmanuel Seetsi 30:32
9. Sabata Elias 30:35
10. Sphamandla Goba 30:53

10km Open Women

1. Molutubete Makatishi 34:21
2. Rorisang Tlhiba 37:27
3. Inganathi Ngubo 38:12
4. Anele Ndawonde 38:35
5. Thembekile Mjwara 38:37
6. Siphokazi Nkabane 39:25
7. Amanda Nkomo 39:40
8. Refiloe Karreobos 40:36
9. Nonhle Dlamini 41:51
10. Thobeka Phungula 43:52



UBuhlebezwe Local Municipality officially opened the new offices with the African theme. It was glitz and glamour at this prestigious event attended by MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Bongive Sithole-Moloi, Mayors and officials.

Harry Gwala District Mayor honoured during official launch of new uBuhlebezwe offices

THERE is a common saying across the various oceans around the world that goes; “give someone their flowers while they still smell them”.

This was a reality for the Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr ZD Nxumalo who, through his admiration for his work of uplifting communities, his humility and his deeds was celebrated for his contribution by the current leadership of the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, while he was the Mayor of the Municipality.

This was during the official opening of the new offices of the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality offices

where the Municipality’s Mayor, Councillor NB Ngubo stated that they are also honouring Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo, the long serving former Mayor of the same local Municipality.

Cllr Nxumalo’s name forms part of the names engraved on the Municipality’s wall plaque, which also details the period when he was leading the Municipality. “As Cllr Nxumalo is part of the Mayors who served the longest term, he is also celebrated,” said Mayor Ngubo.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Bongive Sithole-Moloi, who was also part of the official



The African attire was the order of the day at the opening of uBuhlebezwe offices.

MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP WALL OF FORMER MAYORS

“

This plaque serves to commemorate those who have served as Mayors of our Municipality. History has no blank pages.

- Mayor Ngubo -

- **CLLR C LEA COX:** 1995 - 1996
- **CLLR M PEER:** 1996 - 1998
- **CLLR TL MAHLABA:** 1998 - 2000
- **CLLR DW KHUMALO:** 2000 - 2004
- **CLLR TL MAHLABA:** 2004 - 2006
- **CLLR NJ PETERSON:** 2006 - 2011
- **CLLR ZD NXUMALO:** 2011 - 2019
- **CLLR EB NGUBO:** 2019 TO DATE



Mayors who had served uBuhlebezwe Municipality were commemorated during the official opening of the offices. Seen here are some of the council and officials who attended the event.

launch, congratulated uBuhlebezwe Municipality for their new council offices.

The auspicious occasion, which coincided with Africa Day, signified a momentous milestone in the municipality's history.

MEC Sithole-Moloi inducted the state-of-the-art building, which represents a new chapter for uBuhlebezwe Municipality. The new structure addresses the challenges of limited space, ensuring that all essential elements, including the Council Chamber, corporate services building, and treasury offices.

The MEC commended the uBuhlebezwe Municipality for their unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional services to the community,

despite the constraints of limited space. She encourages the municipality to draw strength and inspiration from their newly refurbished offices.

Furthermore, MEC Sithole-Moloi congratulated the uBuhlebezwe Municipality Mayor for her courageous leadership in successfully completing this significant project. "As a woman Mayor, Mayor Ngubo serves as an inspiration to all, showcasing the vital role that women play in driving progress and development within our communities," said the MEC.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo also praised uBuhlebezwe for a job well-done and said this will assist in making sure there is service delivery for people in the District.



Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo speaking during the IDP roadshows. He encourages rate payers to pay for services being provided by the municipality.

Mayor emphasizes the importance of Integrated Development Plan roadshows

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor, Cllr Z.D Nxumalo has underscored the importance of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) saying, “it is a vehicle to rule out the perception that Municipalities are distant from the communities”.

The IDP roadshows are legislated government programmes that ensure Municipalities interface and engage with communities when compiling their annual budgets. Municipal budgets are informed by the IDP, a strategic document that encapsulates the needs, priorities, and wishes of communities.

Mayors of all Municipalities, Ward Councillors, ward committees and stakeholders often participate in the roadshows as part of also creating a platform for communities to influence the type of service

delivery they want for their communities and to receive updates on achievements and outstanding projects.

This is an annual programme, in which the Harry Gwala District Municipality continues to embark on.

The aim of these meetings is to present the Draft medium-term revenue and expenditure framework for the current financial year and the ensuing two years.

When preparing the annual budget, Mayor ZD Nxumalo considers the Municipality’s IDP and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the municipality revises the IDP in terms of Section 4 of the Municipal Systems Act, while realistically offsetting the needs of communities against the revenue and expenditure projections for the looming years as well as considering



Community members attended the IDP roadshows to listen to plans both the District and Local municipalities have. Officials and Councillors also attended the IDP to address the public.



The Harry Gwala District Municipality together with family of local municipality hosted IDP roadshows to inform the public on their plans and also get the public perceptions on service delivery issues. The public attended these IDP shows and voiced their concerns and gratitude.

the guidelines from the national government and the state of the country's economy.

Officials from all local municipalities namely, uBuhlebezwe Municipality, uMzimkhulu Municipality, Greater Kokstad Municipality and Dr Nkosazana Zuma Municipality also took part in the roadshows.

Plans for service delivery which include water and sanitation remain the main talked about aspects across the various communities within the District.

Mayor Nxumalo, during the IDP meeting with ratepayers, stakeholders, and various communities, encouraged all to save water and pay for services rendered to them by municipalities as these institutions are revenue collection based, meaning they have to collect revenue into their coffers before they implement planned service delivery that had been influenced by communities.

These roadshows help to prepare a strategic development plan, are instrumental in guiding all planning, management, and development, and guide the implementation of decisions in that they should consider input from communities and stakeholders across the Harry Gwala District municipal area.

During these meetings, members are given the opportunity to ask questions and inputs regarding their concerns on service delivery and other related issues.





The Harry Gwala District Communications team welcomed a new member of the District Communicators Forum (DCF), during the meeting which included the induction of communicators.

The Harry Gwala District Communicators' Forum welcomes new member

THE Harry Gwala District Communicators' Forum welcomed the Head of Communications from the Greater Kokstad Municipality into its fold.

This sitting included the induction of recently appointed GKM's Head of Communication Mr Zolani Sqwayi which was facilitated by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)

The aim of the induction is to integrate communicators into the government communication system to have a thorough knowledge of their work and how they fit in the government communication system to achieve synergy in communicating to the

public their municipalities serve.

The District Communicators Forum is a platform for communicators to discuss strategic government communication issues within the district and possible solutions through best practices to improve their quality of work as the environment they work under is constantly evolving. The forum meets quarterly and it is chaired by Harry Gwala District Municipality Communications Manager Ndabezitha Tenza.

Amongst the items discussed were the presentations from the previous Local Government Communicators Forum and the agenda for the next Local Government Communicators Forum.



Greater Kokstad Communications Manager Mr. Zolani Sqwayi was warmly welcomed by DFC members.

Harry Gwala District hosts the EPWP Activation



The Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo asked workers under EPWP to make sure they work hard and asked that more people be employed under the program.

THE Kwazulu-Natal Department of Public Works together with the Harry Gwala District Municipality, hosted the EPWP Focus Week activation programme at the Peace Initiative Hall in Ixopo,

His Worship the District Mayor, Cllr Z.D Nxumalo, said it was important that those employed under EPWP learn the necessary skills given in their respective jobs and to be dedicated and committed to their work.

The mayor also expressed his wish that more people in the District can be employed under EPWP and asked Public Works for a more budget.

“As the District what we would like to see is more people being employed under EPWP

We would also like to see them getting the necessary skills so that they can do their job to the best of their abilities,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The goal of the EPWP focus week is to improve EPWP awareness and understanding by all relevant public bodies, State Owned Entities (SOEs) and Civil Society as well as improve effective implementation and reporting by public bodies and to expand on approaches for job creation.

Harry Gwala District Coordinator Ms. Zanele Bavu, said the District is doing very well in EPWP programs and expressed that more can be achieved.

Mr D.B Dlamini, who is a chief director for the programme said EPWP should not be politicised in any way, whatsoever.

“We are here to share ideas and to hear what participants face on the job. Also to encourage that we do our very best in our jobs as EPWP,” said Dlamini.

Participants were also encouraged to refrain from putting EPWP in a bad light by not undertaking their responsibilities as expected.



During the EPWP Focus week, employees attended a workshop. Attending the event was the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, his Deputy Cllr. T.N Jojozi, officials from the Department of Public Works, officials from the District, other local municipalities and community members.



Small business in the Harry Gwala District received the much-needed help from Department of Small Business Development and SEDA, uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality and the Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA).

INFORMAL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IMEDP) HANDOVERS IN HARRY GWALA DISTRICT

AS South Africa rebuilds from the Covid-19 pandemic and amid the effects of the economic downturn, the informal economy continues to play a key role in tackling unemployment as well as setting up the country for an economic recovery. It is the government’s role to assess how these informal businesses are picking themselves up, how are they coping and what interventions can be put in place in order for them to stay afloat.

As part of the National Informal & Micro Enterprise Development Programme (IMEDP), Deputy Minister Dipuo Peters for the Department of Small Business Development was in Harry Gwala District at the Peace Initiative Hall in Ixopo. Harry Gwala District Speaker, Cllr Mdunge, uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor Cllr EB Ngubo and CEO of Harry Gwala Development Agency Ms. Whyte accompanied the Deputy Minister.

The Department of Small Business Development

in partnership with SEDA and Local Municipalities provided tools and equipment to informal and micro enterprises through the IMEDP. The IMEDP offers a 100% grant to informal businesses operating in townships and rural areas with a focus mainly on specifically targeted beneficiaries such as women, youth, and PWDs. The IMEDP supports informal and micro enterprises by providing them with operational support equipment. The programme strives to accelerate the growth of these enterprises by improving their competitiveness and sustainability to become formal businesses in the mainstream economy.

The aim of this initiative was to uplift business owners in the informal sector by providing them with targeted skills development and training, as well as business tools and equipment to assist them to be sustainable and competitive. A total of 24 beneficiaries from across the Harry Gwala District benefitted.



National Government visit to the local municipalities leaves a mark in the Madungeni Community. Dr, Nobuhle Nkabane, with other Deputy Ministers paid a visit to this community bring services which are much needed.

Mayor Nxumalo takes his “hat” off to national leadership prioritising rural municipalities

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor, Councillor Z.D. Nxumalo has applauded National Ministers and Deputies for their persistent visits to the District as part of finding permanent solutions to challenges of service delivery that continue to engulf rural municipalities.

The District Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo aired his gratitude during the Government Imbizo held at eMadungeni Community which was also attended by the Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, and other Deputy Ministers including, Pamela Tshwete who is the Deputy Minister for Human Settlements, Dr Sibongiseni Dlomo Deputy Minister for Health; Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Monitoring and Evaluation, Ms Pinky Kekana; Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour, Ms Boitumelo Moloi and Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Njabulo Nzuza.

This Imbizo was part of the Presidential Programme and the District Development Model (DDM) that coordinates and integrates all three spheres of Government through development plans and budgets to mobilise the capacity and resources of government, civil society, business, labour and community, in

pursuit of inclusive growth and job creation.

The Mayors of local municipalities within the District shared the same sentiments as Mayor Nxumalo in appreciating programmes that seek to uplift rural communities in the ongoing fight against poverty. “We feel honoured to have all these Deputy Ministers in our District, to bring us service delivery.

We have home affairs services, and health services all provided for us at this venue. It shows that this government knows what the people need and delivers accordingly,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

Each of the Deputy Ministers presented services in their department and also provided services on the day which included issuing IDs, and addressing issues of UIF, housing and health issues.

The Imbizo focused on addressing the mining and energy-related issues affecting the community of uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, and the affected mining companies in the area.

This is in line with President Cyril Ramaphosa’s call to set a path of creating a strong District Development Model (DDM) with Intergovernmental Teams that will work in unison to improve the lives of communities in each district.



Municipal Grants Expenditure



The Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nzumalo emphasized the importance of planning for the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The District had Monthly meetings and weekly meetings to plan.

WITH the intention to enhance inter-governmental relations in the District of Harry Gwala, the Municipality held a Municipal Grants Expenditure workshop, which included all other local Municipalities.

The intention was to ensure the District compiles its budget in a manner that would also accommodate the challenges emanating from the sister Municipalities as part of speeding up in resolving service delivery challenges in the entire district.

This is in relation to the District Development Model (DDM), a programme that brings together and enhances a balanced approach towards developing urban and rural areas by creating a value chain model, which prioritizes the poor.

During the programme, all sister municipalities presented their status of expenditures on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), INEP, EPWP and WSIG grants to date.

The meeting was held at the Disaster Management Centre in Ixopo.

This meeting was attended by the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Greater Kokstad Deputy Mayor, Municipal Managers, Directors and Chief Financial Officers and senior officials from uBuhlebezwe, uMzimkhulu, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Greater Kokstad.

The Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo said it was of paramount importance that

the municipalities sat and planned so that MIG is spent accordingly and on time to reduce rollovers.

“From what we have been advised on, over-delegation in projects is a problem and needs to be limited. Accounting officers need to be hands-on fully. Officials must be innovative and come up with solutions to take the municipalities forward. We need to be informed about what we deal with, especially when it comes to contracts. The issue of planning coupled with expenditure should be the main thing discussed by management so that we get the right result. We must apply forward planning. Technical directors must also know their story, know their projects well. The issue of service delivery must always be a priority. We also need to think outside the box and be innovative in making sure we deliver services,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

Senior officials from Cogta KwaZulu-Natal led by Director: MIG, Mrs Chuleza Jama, advised the municipalities to make sure that MIG projects are completed on time.

“Accounting officers or technical managers need to be fully involved in projects and limit delegation. We also need to start projects on time to make sure they are completed on time,” said Mrs Jama.

The District has been having monthly meetings to discuss MIG progress and expenditure. This was recommended and has reaped positive results. Now the District will start having weekly meetings about MIG.



The Youth Mobile office will assist the youth in job hunting, applying for university and to be access internet even in rural areas. The bus from the Premiers Office has been received by the District. Here the Executive Director Ms. N. Buthelezi received the bus with other officials.

YOUTH MOBILE OFFICE

INTERACTING with young people in Harry Gwala District is set to improve now that there is a youth mobile office which has started servicing communities in the District.

The Office of the Premier under the Youth Directorate led by: Mr S.O. Ntuli (Chief Director) accompanied by Miss N. Zungu (Acting Director), Mr S. Latha (Assisting Director) in Youth Skills Development and Miss Y. Masuku (Youth Outreach Officer) officially introduced the Youth Mobile office which was welcomed at the Harry Gwala District Office by Miss N. Buthelezi (Executive Director SSDP), Mr R.Z. Langa (Manager Special Programmes) Mr M. Mazibuko (Acting Youth Coordinator) and Mr T. Luswazi (Admin Intern).

The aim of this mobile office is to respond to the pillars of the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020-2030 and the Provincial Integrated Youth Development Strategy (PIYDS) which was developed for better integration and implementation of youth-related programmes.

This project is to assist the youth of the District of Harry Gwala in partnership with local municipalities. The mobile office which is equipped with WiFi, a printing machine and laptops will assist young people across the length and breadth of the District in its quest of taking government services to the people. Amongst

other services that will be provided by mobile offices are, but are not limited to, NSFAS applications, and tertiary and business funding applications assistance. The mobile office will have programs linked to the five pillars for youth development in disadvantaged communities. The mobile office commenced its work on 26 May 2023 at the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality’s Career Exhibition programme.

This mobile office was officially introduced by the District Mayor, Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, in the open council meeting held in Kokstad recently.

Nxumalo said this is a dream come true for the youth in the District.

“This is answered prayers to our youth as they will be getting services in their own areas. Before, to send a CV and get the internet they would have to travel long distances or to town now the service will come to their areas. We are really excited about this mobile office, and we hope our youth can make use of it,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

For further information please contact the Local and District Youth Offices:

NDZ: Nqo Mbanjwa - 0798340075

NMZ- Adam Sikhosana - 0734447983

uBUHLEBEZWE - Sinethemba Nkontwana - 0743271186

GKM-Samkele Nondize - 0780119238





Fight fire needs skills, this was the lesson given to Harry Gwala District employees during the fire awareness.

The purpose of Fire Awareness at the workplace

DAILY, people wake up and travel to different areas, either to work or to schools to focus on their daily routines.

However, that does not mean their lives are safe because unexpected fire outbreaks might surprise them.

This is the reason why the Harry Gwala District Municipality believes in the importance of training its employees about safety precautions when it comes to fire.

The Municipality held an awareness campaign led by the Office of the Occupational Health and Safety, under the Corporate Services Department of the municipality.

This awareness is aimed at cautioning employees about possible fire dangers within the work environment and at their homes.

The uBuhlebezwe Fire Department conducted a fire drill.

Corporate Service Executive Director Mrs Thobile Thiyane-Magaqa said it is important to have such awareness for employees for their safety and the security of the municipal buildings.

“Fire safety management can improve the emergency response in the event of a fire. What remains of paramount importance to us as the District is that our employees are safe. Should there be a fire, they should know what to do. Also, this was an important exercise to make sure that our building is safe from fire,” said Thiyane-Magaqa.

“We also demonstrated shared services as we are working together with disaster teams within the district especially when it comes to issues of firefighters. We thank Ubuhlebezwe firefighters

for being part of us during this awareness, working together indeed we will deliver and grow,” added Thiyane-Magaqa.

During the awareness, employees were educated on how to prevent fires, how to put off fires and what to do when there is a fire outbreak in the workplace. Employees had an opportunity to learn how to use a fire extinguisher.

Each fire disaster can have lasting effects

People may be seriously injured or killed, and devastating and costly property damage can occur. Key to fire safety is practising specific fire safety and fire prevention behaviours. There are some very simple steps you can take to prevent loss of life and damage to property from fire.

- Never lock or block fire exits or doorways, halls or stairways. Fire doors provide a way out and slow the spread of fire and smoke. Never prop a stairway or other fire doors open.
- Learn your building’s evacuation plans. Make sure everyone knows what to do if the fire alarm goes off. Plan and practise your escape plan.
- Make sure your building manager displays evacuation routes in high foot traffic areas like passages.
- Know the sound of your building’s fire alarm and display emergency numbers near all telephones.
- Know who is responsible for maintaining the fire safety systems. Make sure nothing blocks these devices and promptly report any sign of damage or malfunction to the building management.

Youth Council structure to prioritise youth development



The future of this country is in the hands of the youth, that has been the vision of the district and that of the Youth Manager in the district. The Youth Manager office held a youth summit to empower the youth in the district.

As part of ensuring that youth development moves at a faster pace, the youth within the Harry Gwala District decided to stand their ground to ensure that they benefit from opportunities that emerge within the region.

This is in the wake of the formation of the District Youth Council intended to zoom into opportunities to safeguard youth development.

The Youth Council was formed during a two-day summit held in Glencairn recently where several challenges faced by young people, including the lack of job opportunities that have engulfed the youth within the District are put under microscope to find solutions of exposing them to opportunities.

The Summit was held under the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality as part of also addressing the challenges of the Youth in rural Municipalities.

A way forward in this regard resulted in the formation of the structure of the Youth Council where Vuyo Zulu was elected as the Chairperson, Deputized by Sboniso Dumakude. Wandile Radebe was elected as the Secretary of the Council, Deputized by Mxolisi Nyambose, with Kholeka Mngoma elected as Treasurer. Additional members elected as well are Minenhle Khuboni, Msizi Lugaju, Awonke Bam, Nompumelelo Sibetha and

Naledi Mnini.

The former Youth Manager for the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Mr Qiniso Mnguni who is well versed in the challenges faced by the youth in the District said he has pleaded with both public and private sectors to come together to ensure the development of young people.

“This summit should be the driving force propelling us to success as young people of the Harry Gwala District. This summit must not be a talk show, but it should be characterised by a festival of sustainable ideas that will also create long-lasting solutions to challenges faced by young people,” said Mnguni.

He also welcomed the newly elected leaders of the Council and urged them to be at the forefront in prioritizing youth development.

“You are the voice of the youth in this District, represent them accordingly. They should see a change because they elected you. The aim you must achieve is making sure that there is development of the youth in the District,” said Mnguni.

Amongst other stakeholders that were present at the summit included NYDA, Social Development, Democracy Development Program (DDP), The Berg Incubation Hub and the SAYC Harry Gwala District

Putting an end to social ills



The District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo paid a visit to Thandinkosi Tempe in Underberg.

SOCIAL ills which are a major cause for the exacerbation of Gender Based Violence (GBV) that have engulfed most communities within the Harry Gwala District Municipality have compelled the District Mayor, Councillor Z.D. Nxumalo to opt for divine intervention inviting the Nazareth Baptist Church leader “UNyazi LweZulu” Shembe with his members to come spend some days in the district and to elevate in prayer these challenges to the Almighty.

The Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo led a delegation under his district to visit to Nazareth Baptist Church Inkosi Mduduzi “UNyazi LweZulu” Shembe at Thembeni Temple in uMzimkhulu.

This was after a visit to Thandinkosi Temple in Underberg.

The delegation on both the visits included Mayors from uMzimkhulu, uBuhlebezwe and Greater Kokstad, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Harry Gwala Deputy Mayor, Cllr T.N Jojozi, councillors and other dignitaries.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by INkosi Unyazi Lwezulu, who in turn, blessed the delegation of Mayors and wished them well in their good service to the people.

UNyazi, responding to the Mayors’ plea, also condemned GBV. Issues of service delivery to the community of Harry Gwala District were also discussed with INkosi uNyazi LweZulu who said it was necessary that leaders must provide service delivery and that the community members must listen to their leaders.

Mayor Nxumalo emphasised that as leaders seeking divine interventions and the involvement of traditional leaders in fighting social ills is pivotal as they also have important roles to play as leaders in their communities. “It important that we take on this fight against GBV together with traditional leaders and those from different churches so that when they address community members in their own platforms, they are able to advocate for putting an end and bring about change,” said Mayor Nxumalo.



A delegation led by the Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo visited at Thembeni Temple in uMzimkhulu.



Amakhosi in the Harry Gwala District had an opportunity to learn about managing a disaster which was hosted by the district Disaster Unit. Amakhosi had an opportunity to have a discussion with the District about fighting disasters in their areas and their community. Amakhosi were presented with equipment to assist them in their areas when faced with a disaster.

Amakhosi Disaster Management Workshop

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality conducted a Disaster Management Workshop for traditional leaders recently.

The workshop was attended by Amakhosi from municipalities within the District, Provincial Disaster Management Centre, the South African Weather Services (SAWS), the District Deputy Mayor, Cllr T.N. Jojozi, stakeholders and officials.

The aim of the workshop was to deliberate and discuss matters related to fires and the Rescue Services thereof.

SAWS presented the impacts based on severe weather warning systems while other departments that presented included Human Settlements. Programme Director, Cooperative Executive Director, Mrs TT. Thiyane-Magaqa stressed the importance of taking extra care of the natural environment as it plays

a huge role in preventing disasters from occurring.

Going back to the old ways and sticking to indigenous traits is said to be one of the most effective ways to go about minimising damage after occurrences of natural disasters. “It is everybody’s responsibility to play a significant role in taking care of our natural environment,” said Miss T. Gumede of SAWS.

Amakhosi expressed that they appreciated the initiative by the municipality as it prepares them to be able to face disaster and fire-related issues in their own areas.

The Social Development and Planning Executive Director Ms. N. Buthelezi together with the Deputy Mayor presented Amakhosi with equipment to assist them in their area when faced with natural disasters and fires.

RESOLUTIONS

- Disaster Management Centres must ensure the active participation of Traditional Leaders through advisory forums, capacity-building programmes, risk assessment, risk reduction, disaster response and promotion of indigenous knowledge.
- Amakhosi are requested to invite Fire and rescue services when

they need to do fire breaks.

- Land allocation by Amakhosi through Izinduna, must ensure that the land earmarked for development meets the development standards government.
- Participate in disaster management advisory forums in levels of government.
- Amakhosi must assist in educating

and conducting awareness activities in communities, especially in indigenous knowledge.

- Conduct audits for all disaster-prone areas to enhance disaster risk reduction and mitigation strategies.
- Improve on human rights-driven solutions vs humanitarian solutions.



A voice against Gender Base Violence (GBV) in uMzimkhulu area. MEC for Social Development visits the area with other leaders from the District and Local municipalities to fight against GBV.

MEC KHOZA CALLED ON RESIDENTS OF UMZIMKHULU TO STAND WITH GOVERNMENT

THE MEC for Social Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Nonhlanhla Khoza has pleaded with communities of uMzimkhulu to take part in government programmes and to never give up hope albeit the measured pace, that might not be according to their desires when it comes to delivering services.

Khoza was speaking in eMachunwini rural village where she acknowledged that service delivery might not be as fast as in urban areas because they are easily accessible while in their plans as government, these areas occupy the uppermost spot on their lists.

She called on citizens to trust the government, saying that it cares about them.

The MEC said the current government is led by people who understand the plight of people in the rural areas and that they are working very hard to change their material conditions.

Speaking at MaChunwini sports ground in Ward 12 under the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality, MEC Khoza assured residents that the government is not sitting idle while poverty is feeding itself within the Harry Gwala District region.

“The KwaZulu-Natal government is on a drive of taking proactive measures to expedite service delivery and eliminate the fragmented approach to development and community support and upliftment,” she said.

Adding to this, she revealed that the programme was part of the District Development Model (DDM), which aims to integrate a district-based approach in addressing the challenges faced by various government spheres.

“We do not want to see any member of the community sleeping on an empty stomach, hence there are several interventions that we roll out as the

caring government. We also want to see the culture or Ubuntu being restored where no one should be quiet while a neighbour is in distress, because of poverty. We want to see the lives of the people changing for the better,” added the MEC.

As part of a comprehensive government outreach programme, various departments, including Home Affairs, Social Development, Agriculture and Rural Development, Human Settlements, Health, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), the National Development Agency and the South African Police Services (SAPS), will be collaborating to respond to the needs of residents.

People had an opportunity to register for new IDs, birth certificates, apply for child support, and pension grants.

MEC Khoza said the government opted to bring services closer to the people.

“We had received reports that some of the people travel long distances to apply for IDs and birth certificates. We cannot allow that to happen, but as a government, we bring services to our communities so that they don’t use their grants to travel, but buy food to feed their families,” said MEC Khoza.

The MEC Khoza also led an intensive campaign against gender-based violence at Rietvlei Tax Rank, where she encouraged people to stand shoulder to shoulder to fight this scourge.

“We are happy to see that families are taking care of older persons in this area. We are worried as we get reports of abuse and rape of older persons. We call on residents to report cases of rape to the police so as to ensure the perpetrators get arrested and sentenced,” she said.

MEC Khoza said cases of rape could never be resolved through paying damages to victims’ families.



A bittersweet moment when the Harry Gwala District family bid farewell to one of the executive director Mr Gqiba.

The District bids farewell to the executive manager

EVEN though he was known to be a very short-tempered employee, he was up to the task when ensuring service delivery to the people of Harry Gwala is implemented.

The farewell of Mr D.S. Gqiba, the former Water Services Executive Manager was dominated by mixed emotions with sad expressions written on the faces of his soon to be former employees.

He left the employ of being the District’s top engineer to for greener pastures after being at helm of the Water Services Authority responsible for water supply and provision of sanitation services in the District Municipality’s family of four Local Municipalities namely uBuhlebezwe, uMzimkhulu, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Greater Kokstad.

Delivering the keynote farewell address, Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Councillor Zamo Nxumalo said it was a bittersweet moment to bid farewell to Mr. Gqiba as he played a very critical role in ensuring that water and sanitation services were delivered to the communities of Harry Gwala District.

Mayor Nxumalo said he was in awe and full of admiration of Gqiba’s selfless spirit which was imbued by a rare listening skill which had an

abundance of understanding.

“Gqiba is an amazing person who served this Municipality with respect, dedication and with passion. I admire him, this is a loss to the Municipality and KwaZulu- Natal but to his future boss it is indeed a gain,” said Mayor Nxumalo In his farewell speech.

In his response Mr. Gqiba said he didn’t expect such a farewell, but he was grateful. He said it was an emotional moment for him particularly the sad fact that as he leaves the District Municipality, he had not accomplished all that he had set out to achieve when he assumed his role as Water Services Executive Director.

He said whatever he could not accomplish he wished the younger generations to pick up where he left off and forge forward and to succeed. He thanked the political leadership and management led by the Municipal Manager Mr. G. Sineke for the support.

He also thanked his staff at the Water Services Department for their commitment and dedication.

“It is indeed an emotional moment for me, leaving now, there is so much more I needed to accomplish in this beautiful District, it is really sad that I am leaving having not done all I had dreamt of doing,” said Mr. Gqiba.



The Harry Gwala District Marathon ambassador Bongumusa Mthembu wants more from municipalities in terms of sport facilities and supporting of sports in the district. The media launch was attended by more than 20 different media houses, officials and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MARATHON MEDIA LAUNCH

The District's Marathon ambassador, Bongumusa Mthembu will never find peace even after his demise if there could be no school or academy built in his District...

NOW, the Multiple Comrades Marathon winner, Mthembu has redirected his plea to local businesses to strongly invest in sports so that the District, which produces famous athletes and sports stars, could have enough facilities for further sport development.

He did not mince his words to say they need to have sporting development academies.

"We urge our local businesses to plough back to our communities by investing their money in building those academies because our District of Harry Gwala is doing great in sport," Mthembu said.

He raised this during the official launch of the eighth edition of the Harry Gwala District Municipality Marathon at Ixopo's Soweto Hall recently.

Mthembu has also made another plea to municipal officials and politicians to prioritise rural villages in terms of sporting development as most athletes originate from the dusty rural roads of the Harry Gwala region.

"I am very happy that the Mayors, Deputy Mayors, managers, and all other political leaders are present today. I am also happy that some of them will be taking part in the event. As a proud athlete from the rural area around this District Municipality, I would like to ask them to please start building sports facilities that will be used as our development academies. We can't overlook rural areas such as Underberg, Bulwer, Donnybrook and Ixopo, because there's a lot of talent there. If you go around South Africa, you will easily discover that most of the best athletes are from rural areas, so why don't we invest in such communities? I had some friends visiting me during some holidays to see where I stay and

sometimes it's embarrassing when there is not even a good playground. But this race gives hope that the municipalities are doing something to make sure there is a culture of sports development in our rural areas," said Mthembu.

He indicated that the current leadership must not forget that the municipality has produced athletes like Willie Mtolo (former New York Marathon winner), Thobani Chagwe (former Mandela Marathon winner) and himself (three-time Comrades champ) and others.

Chagwe is also an ambassador for this race. He praised the Harry Gwala District Municipality and partners for always making sure they host this race.

"Such a race must continue and keep on growing because most of the young athletes will grow from them. It is a privilege to be part of a race in my hometown," said Chagwe.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Zamo Nxumalo added that the area is always clean and safe for runners.

"The reason why most runners from all over the country always look forward to taking part in our marathon is because of the atmosphere, weather, and clean air. Our area is not polluted; most clean air and our route goes through the peaceful stunning valley. We also want our local athletes to participate in this race, especially the young people," commented Nxumalo.

Harry Gwala District Municipality in partnership with uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, uMzimkhulu Local Municipality, the Department of Sport and Recreation, Genius Athletic Club and other stakeholders worked in amalgamation to ensure the success of the tournament.



Employers are required in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993 to provide an environment that is safe, healthy and hazard free, for the employees to work in. It is for that reason that Harry Gwala District Municipality has adopted a responsibility to provide Personal Protective Equipment for its employees with the view to creating a healthy and safe working environment.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality ensures that employees entitled, are provided with Personal Protective Equipment that is compliant with Health and Safety Requirements of all employees in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations. The Municipality also ensures that employees perform their duties in a safe and healthy environment that is free from hazards and take steps to reduce the risk as much as is practicable possible and to provide free of charge and maintain in a good and clean condition such safety equipment as may be necessary to ensure that any person exposed to any unsafe condition at the workplace is always safe to work in that condition or situation.



CONTACT US

Physical Address:
40 Main Street, Ixopo, 3276

Postal Address:
Private Bag X501, Ixopo, 3276


Tel: (039) 834 8700

Fax: (039) 834 1701

**Customer care number:
0860 103 651**

 Harry Gwala District Municipality

 @harrygwala

 @harrygwala

www.harrygwalam.gov.za