



2024 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

HARRY GWALA
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1



Together we Deliver and Grow



 Harry Gwala District Municipality

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 www.harrygwalamunicipality.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



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We take it to the people, for the people!!!!



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza
Communications Manager

WARMEST greetings to you our loyal and trusted readers. It is always a great pleasure having to report to you about all matters of service delivery and development that our municipality takes priority in. Expect our publication to occur every quarter. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone for their continued support of our publication. We pride ourselves on keeping our readers and stakeholders informed at all times. The transparency that comes with our reporting style makes our publication stand out.

As we kick off the year, I congratulate my Communications team for being crowned the Most Active Communications Team on Revenue Collection, at the Salga National Communicators Forum that was held at the Durban ICC on the 12th of December 2023. This award does not reflect on my leadership style only as the leader of the communication business unit, but it confirms my ability to put ideas into action and my understanding of effective communication, which is central to stakeholder engagement, our communities in particular.

Community engagements have been conducted on matters of service delivery including the distribution of calendars to our communities. These kind of programs closes the social distance between us and communities. Despite the paradigm shift to digital communication, our communities still embrace traditional communication channels like having wall calendars. Our communication strategy draws a lens from a mass communication approach that uses both traditional and digital communication. This approach has a positive impact on our communication planning, consequently, a schedule of meetings for 2024 has been issued, allowing stakeholders including Municipal departments to plan accordingly.

After an unfortunate experience of floods in the past few months, we extend our gratitude to the disaster management team that has been on the ground assisting in minimizing the damage and putting together updated reports.

The Municipality wishes Mr. Lindumusa Gwala well in his new role as the Director of the Water Services Department. We are a Water Service Authority and

provider; therefore Mr. Gwala has a huge task to perform including managing water schemes and sanitation projects of the Municipality.

The year started on a positive note wherein the beneficiaries of the TLB Youth Skills Development Training Program were handed over certificates of competence by the Harry Gwala District Municipality. Not only does this initiative make them eligible for employment, but it also promotes equal opportunities for young people. As part of building the capacity of the municipality a group of employees from our Finance department graduated their qualifications in Project Management, Municipal Finance Management Programme, and Public Administration with Fachs International College in November 2024. These programs are accredited by the Services SETA, PSETA, and LGSETA. Harry Gwala Development Agency in partnership with Sumitomo Rubber SA (formerly known as Dunlop) handed over four Tyre Fitment Centres which benefitted our youth.

Partnering with government departments has proved to be effective due to positive responses from the public. The launch of broadband Access by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies was well-received by the Kokstad residents, which is aimed at providing partial subsidies to Internet Service Providers to connect 50,000 households and 3000 community Wi-Fi hotspots. On the same approach, the MEC of Finance in KwaZulu-Natal Peggy Nkonyeni visited our district to create financial wellness for the business chamber and the public at large.

Mayor Cllr ZD Nxumalo invited mayors from all four local municipalities for a joint interview slot at Igagasi FM in December 2023 to engage with our communities regarding service delivery.

The annual Harry Gwala Summer Cup held at Dazini Horseracing Track in November 2023 went well, with local people enjoying every moment of the event. We ended 2023 on a very sad note, it was with a heavy heart to have learned of the untimely passing of our former District Mayor Cllr. Jini Khoza in November 2023. May his soul rest in peace. Till next time.



MISS NONTUTHUKO NGUBANE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)

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



Come out in large numbers to cast your vote

New Year

WE have hit the ground running in the new year and I wish on behalf of the Council of the Harry Gwala District, to wish you well in the remainder of the year. This is the first newsletter for the year. It will come out every quarter and our administration led by the Municipal Manager will ensure it as this is the platform to update citizens across our district on the activities and programmes undertaken by the District.

We started off the year in a sad manner after three drownings were reported in the Harry Gwala District following the January floods. The inclement weather experienced so far in the year is a clear indication that climate change is already varying our country's ecosystems, the economy, and has and will continue to have an impact on our livelihoods. As a water authority, climate impacts on water security given that the climate shifts from heavy rain falls that lead to localized flooding, damage to property and loss of life. The heat waves that lead to dry conditions put additional strain on the health system as prolonged dry weather may lead to drought. As the District we have to be fully cognisant of the effects of climate in order to effectively implement our line function of water provision.

On a positive note our District and its family of municipalities, namely, the Greater Kokstad Municipality and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Municipality flew the flag of the District high during this year's KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs annual Municipal Service Excellence Awards held in Pietermaritzburg City Hall recently. The awards aim to motivate municipalities to enhance their performance, productivity, and innovation in service provision, as well as promote best practices. Municipalities contested in 17 categories which focused on various municipal programmes.

The following accolades were bestowed to our district:-

- **Best Performing District Expanded Public Works Programme** – Harry Gwala District Municipality
- **Best performing Ward Committee:** Ward 1 of Greater Kokstad Municipality



His Worship the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

As the District we have to be fully cognisant of the effects of climate in order to effectively implement our line function of water provision.

- **Best Managed Electricity Project by Municipality:** Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality

Congratulations to the District and to the GKM



It was a joyous day for learners when the Harry Gwala District Municipality visited their schools as part of the Back to School Programme.

and Dr NDZ Municipalities for winning the awards which is a testament that our region is doing something right.

Back to School Programme.

Our District together with the Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA) visited different schools, the campaign and school monitoring programme aims at encouraging learners to pursue education. Schools visited included Thembaletu Senior Secondary, Mount Currie Senior Secondary, Nkomose High School, Ixopo Village Combined School, Leshman High School, Qulashe High School, Mfulamhle Combined School and Clydesdale Senior Secondary.

The schools received calendars, diaries, science kit, school uniform vouchers and other educational material.

Harry Gwala District Marathon

The District has commenced with the plans to host the annual Harry Gwala District Marathon which will be held on 31 March 2024, starting at Ibisi Police Station, and finishes at Ixopo High School. The annual marathon attracts runners from within the District, the province, the country and internationally.

This year's race will also feature the coveted 42.2 km race, the 21 half-marathon, 10km race and 5km fun run. Entry fees range from R100 to R350. Experienced and interested runners do not want to miss this event which is characterised by the scenic route. Most importantly this marathon has partners and sponsors that are fully aware of the needs of

athletes as it is centred around prioritizing them the most and ensuring that they are well taken care of.

This year's marathon will be a success as well and we invite all to hurry and enter to be part of the races as fun is guaranteed and testing one's endurance is pivotal.

Councillors and essential services personnel

It would be amiss of me to not commend the essential services personnel and fellow Councillors for their hard work during the festive season. Their mettle and commitment to the needs of the communities within the region was on display as they went over and beyond the call of duty to assist where they were needed. This is one of the mantras that we advance in the District, which is to care for one another and take care of our communities beyond what has been legislatively prescribed for us to do.

We are thankful for the work and commitment displayed during the festive season period and we will continue in the same manner to implement our tasks for the remainder of the year.

Vote, It your democratic right

As I close, allow me to encourage all who are eligible to vote in our district to make sure that on the 29th May 2024, they go out in numbers and vote. This is their democratic right. Voting is an important right that we have as South Africans, you must not forget that most of us were denied this right for many years.

Moreover voting is a demonstration of commitment to ourselves and to one another and ultimately to our country.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD

Work with us as we continue to embark in our effort to improve service delivery



Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke
Municipal Manager

MY sincere greetings to all our stakeholders who are the readers of the Harry Gwala District Municipality newsletter. Amongst its many factors and attributes, it is an important communication tool that is used to account for the electorate. Our mission is to work together to ensure the provision of clean, drinkable, uninterrupted water and proper sanitation facilities, so as to enhance human dignity. As a District municipality, this is achieved through various communication platforms such as this one, wherein we engage and report on progress that has been made thus far against our service delivery targets.

Section 72 (1) of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003 and the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act No. 5 of 2000 as well as the Municipal Performance Regulations, make provision for the Accounting officer of the municipality to assess the performance of the municipality during the first half of the financial year, taking into account the monthly financial statements, the municipality's service delivery performance, service delivery targets and performance indicators, as set out in the service delivery and budget implementation plan.

Legislation also entitles the accounting officer to review and make recommendations on the adjustment of the budget. Consequently, we have adjusted the budget accordingly in a strategic

planning session that we recently held. With the available budget we are positive as a municipality that we shall put our plans into action during the current remaining financial year and beyond. We have also engaged in the Mid-Term performance report on targets that were not achieved and committed to addressing the challenges that were identified.

The draft budget process commenced and will be tabled to Council, followed by publication and submission to Provincial and National Treasury for further analysis.

I am thrilled to report that we are on a positive trajectory regarding our financial management. We have received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor General with matters of emphasis that are being attended to. Appropriate legislation provides that the accounting officer must prepare financial statements for submission to the Auditor-General for auditing, of which as a District Municipality, we have achieved this objective.

We look forward to hearing your views regarding the proposed budget which will be captured during our IDP and Budget Roadshows.

In conclusion, I wish to appeal to all our stakeholders and community at large to work with us as we continue to embark in our effort to improve our service delivery initiatives.

I Thank You.

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. LINDUMUSA
GWALA**
Water Services

HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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



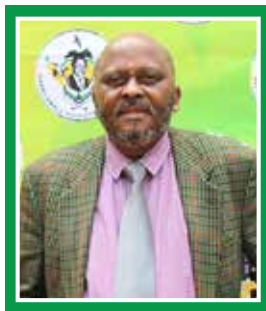
**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
CLLR. Z.D. NXUMALO**



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



**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. N.W. DLADLA



CLLR. Z.R. TSHAZI



CLLR. P.N. DAMOYI



CLLR. P.K. MEMELA



CLLR. N. MDA



CLLR. N.R. MTSHALI



CLLR. N.H. ZACA



CLLR. N.H. MALIMELA



CLLR. H.A. LUKHOZI



CLLR. N. DLAMINI



CLLR. Z.P. DLAMINI



CLLR. H.V. MSOMI



CLLR. S.R.L. NZIMANDE



CLLR. B.R. MEMELA



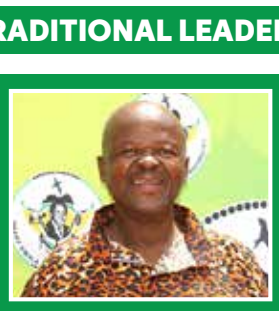
CLLR. B.L. MARNCÉ



CLLR. B. SIBENI



INKOSI P.D.H. CHILIZA



INKOSI V.V. ZIMEMA



INKOSI M.S.I. ZULU

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

RELEASE OF BLUE DROP REPORT

Purpose and Intent of Blue Drop Certification

THE Blue Drop certification programme seeks to identify and develop the core competencies required for a Water Services Authority municipality. The intention is to strengthen and sustainably improve the level of drinking water management in South Africa. The Blue Drop audit is the tool whereby incentive- and risk-based regulation is conducted in South Africa. Regulation is important to ensure effective and efficient delivery of sustainable water services and has been commended by South African authorities and accoladed by international peers. A good regulation approach is characterised by its ability to clarify the requirements and obligations placed on water service institutions, thereby protecting consumers from a potentially unsustainable and unsafe service.

Blue Drop Certification/audit has gained significant momentum and support in the South African Water Sector, since its inception on 11 September. The concept was initially defined by two programmes: Blue Drop Certification for Drinking Water Quality Management Regulation; and Green Drop Certification for Wastewater Quality Management Regulation. This was expanded on with the third programme: No Drop Certification for water conservation and demand management in the water services sector. The Blue Drop process measures and compares the results of the performance of water service institutions, and subsequently rewards (or penalises) the institution upon evidence of their excellence (or failures) according to the minimum standards or requirements that have been defined.

Blue Drop Scores

The main outputs from the Blue Drop 2021-22 audit cycle were:

- A Blue Drop score for each water supply system assessed, which is aggregated into an overall municipal score, expressed as a percentage (%). The BD score incorporate the performance of water services providers or bulk water providers (water boards), where such arrangements are in place.
- A Blue Drop Risk Rating for each water supply system, expressed as a percentage (%)
- Technical Site Assessment score for selected water treatment works and water supply network inspected, expressed as a percentage (%)

A Blue Drop score (%) is awarded to an individual water supply system based on the results from the audit process which measures performance against 5 Key Performance Areas (KPA), plus a suite of bonuses and penalties. Each KPA and sub-criteria carry a different weighting based on the regulatory priorities. Below are the Blue Drop KPAs:

1. Capacity Management

2. Drinking Water Quality Risk Management
3. Financial Management
4. Technical Management
5. Drinking Water Quality Compliance.

The Blue Drop Scores for each water supply system is categorised as following:

>95-100%	Excellent situation,	need to maintain via continued improvement
>80-<95%	Good performance	some room for improvement
>50-<80%	Average performance,	ample room for improvement
>31-<50%	Very poor performance,	need targeted intervention towards gradual sustainable improvement
0-<31%	Critical state,	need urgent intervention for all aspects of the water services business

NB: *Blue Drop Certified: A water supply system that achieves an overall r95% Blue Drop score and "Excellent" microbiological and chemical compliance, is thereby "Blue Drop Certified".*

In KZN, the Regulator determined that 3 water supply systems scored more than 95% when measured against the Blue Drop standards and thus qualified for the prestigious Blue Drop Certification. In 2014, 8 water supply systems were awarded Blue Drop status. Using the 2014 audit results as comparative baseline, the province showed a decline in excellence for 2023. Five (5) of 14 WSAs improved from their 2014 scores, namely Harry Gwala DM, iLembe DM, uMgungundlovu DM, Umkhanyakude DM and uThukela DM.

Harry Gwala District Municipality being amongst the 5 WSAs that have showed improvement from the previous Blue Drop Audit, has scored 66.2% in 2023 whereas in 2014 it scored 62.9%. There are 21 water supply systems and related works within the HGDM area which serves around 510 000 people. The WSA is responsible for 93% of provisioning with the remaining 7% comprising of bulk water from Umgeni Water, via their Ixopo WTW.

Unfortunately, there are two systems Machunwini and Chibini (where the Blue Drop Risk Rating increased to a critical status and the Regulator is deeply concerned over the lack of quality data, in these systems which was cause by the systems being offline due to a number of technical issues and 2022 floods.

Despite various difficulties, of which financial challenges and aging infrastructure were highlighted, the HGDM water services team shows a keen interest to improve the Blue Drop score. The major areas where improvement is required are around the following but not limited to:

- Financial management, specifically in terms of ringfencing water supply
- Capacity management
- Technical management
- Compliance issues

Utilizing schools to secure South Africa's Digital Lab Launch in Ixopo economy



The launch of the cyber lab at Little Flower Combined School by the Hon. Mondli Gungubebe, Minister for the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, alongside MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Siphso Hlomuka, District Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, and Deputy Mayor Cllr Zinhle Miya, facilitated the occasion of the official launch and unveiling of the Cyber Lab at Little Flower Combined School.

THE Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, MP Mondli Gungubebe, has officially handed over a Cyber Lab to teachers and learners of Little Flower Combined School in Ixopo, within the Harry Gwala District, as part of the National Cyber Lab Programme, with the aim of preparing young learners for a digitally positioned future in the global village.

The Minister was joined by the District Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, uBuhlebezwe Deputy Mayor, Cllr Zinhle Miya and other officials.

The Little Flower Combined School joins a cohort of schools from the Eastern Cape and Limpopo and some in KwaZulu-Natal that have been digitally connected through state-of-the-art cyber labs. These laboratories are cutting-edge computer facilities equipped with high-end technology and digital tools including laptops, digital screens, servers and internet connectivity.

The handover programme is an initiative of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), the leader in Government ICT and an entity of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT). Minister Gungubebe told attendees at the handover that digital investment in the youth affords South Africa the opportunity

to guarantee its participation in the economy of the future. "4IR is a new era in our social and economic life. The world economy is now run online through digital technology, and a lot of economic value is locked in this technology," said the Minister, adding that the fastest way for the country to access this value going into the future is in connectivity and skills development. While Cyber labs are providing this skills development to learners in schools, the DCDT through the SA Connect Programme is installing digital infrastructure with a target to connect 80% of South African households to the internet in the next three years. "These pupils will have access online and the capabilities to be innovative so that the programme serves the nation in unlocking economic value," said Minister Gungubebe.

Learners at the schools where Cyber Labs are introduced are taken through lessons in different digital technologies, including Robotics, Coding, Digital Skills and Artificial Intelligence. A session on cyber security was held with the learners to equip them with skills and knowledge on how to be responsible digital citizens and navigate the internet safely.

Mayor Nxumalo congratulated the school for a job well done and said that this cyber lab will assist pupils to reach for their goals.



First Council Meeting

HARRY Gwala District Municipality first Council meeting for year 2024 was held today (24 January 2024) at the main Municipal Council Chambers, iXopo. In this council meeting A report back from the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) was delivered and it was announced that the municipality received an Unqualified Audit Report. Which was explained as an improvement from the previous report which was a qualified Audit report.

The unqualified audit is a significant improvement for the Municipality based on prio years, and after receiving a qualified audit opinion in the previous financial year.





HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2024 CALENDAR YEAR

I, **Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke**, the Municipal Manager of Harry Gwala District Municipality, hereby give notice in terms of Section 19(a) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000), that all Council meetings of Harry Gwala District Municipality have been scheduled according to the attached approved schedule for the calendar year 2024. All Council meetings will be held in the **Harry Gwala District Municipality's Council Chamber at 10h00** unless otherwise communicated.

Enquiries should be directed to: Mrs. T.T. Thiyane-Magaqa, at Harry Gwala District Municipality by using the following telephone numbers: (039) 834 8700/8705 during office hours.

ISAZISO SOMPHAKATHI

Mina, **Mnumzane Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke**, oyi Menenja kaMasipala wesifunda iHarry Gwala, ngazisa ngokweSigaba 19(a) se Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000), ukuthi yonke imihlangano ye Council izohlala njengoba kubhaliwe kulelo lonyaka ka2024. Yonke imihlangano izohlala ngo **10h00 kwi Council Chamber yomkhandlu wase Harry Gwala District.**

Imibuzo mayiqondiswe ku: Nkosikazi T.T. Thiyane-Magaqa, ehhovisini loMkhandlu, iHarry Gwala ngezikhathi zomsebenzi (039) 834 8700/8705.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2024 CALENDAR YEAR

DATE	TIME	VENUE	MEETING
24 January 2024	10h00	Council Chamber	Council
27 February 2024	10h00	Council Chamber	Council
26 March 2024	10h00	Council Chamber	Council
28 May 2024	10h00	Council Chamber	Council
30 July 2024	10h00	Council Chamber	Council
27 August 2024	10h00	Council Chamber	Council
29 October 2024	10h00	Council Chamber	Council
12 December 2024	10h00	Council Chamber	Council

MR G.M. SINEKE: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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The Harry Gwala District Municipality together with the Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA) visited different schools, the aim was to encouraging learners to pursue education. Schools visited included Themba lethu Senior Secondary, Mount Currie Senior Secondary, Nkomose High School, Ixopo Village Combined School, Leshman High School, Qulashe High School, Mfulamhle Combined School and Clydesdale Senior Secondary. The schools received calendars, diaries, science kit, school uniform vouchers and other educational material.

Harry Gwala visits schools

IN an effort to contribute largely towards improvement of the Department of Education, the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo together with the District leadership. As well as local municipalities leadership visited different schools in the District as part

of the Municipality's Back to school programme intended to encourage well-performed learners and those who didn't do well to make education their priority. The District working with the Harry Gwala Development agency handed over diaries, calenders and school. Uniforms vouchers, wi-fi to name a few.





Innovation must lead to professionalized Local Government

- District Mayor Nxumalo



During the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) meeting, the district Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo asked municipal management to be innovative in fast tracking the expenditure and to ensure there is service delivery. In attendance were managers and leadership from all Local Municipalities and the District.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo has instructed the management of both the district and its local municipalities to be innovative in fast tracking expenditure of Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) to ensure service delivery objectives are timely met.

Speaking during the grant reporting session meeting held at the District Council Chambers in IXopo today recently, Mayor Nxumalo said that innovation will enhance the way local government speedily addresses the concerns and challenges faced by communities.

During the session, Mayor Nxumalo reiterated that the District took a resolution to have regular monitoring meetings to report on the status of MIG and other grants funded projects including the related expenditure. These regular monitoring sessions comprise of the Local Municipal Mayors, Municipal Managers, CFO's, and Infrastructure Services managers to comb and get full updates on projects to deal with challenges that may hamper their timely completion which in turn might affect

the grant allocation tranches. The recent meeting was also attended by officials from the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), and was held virtually. Most of the Municipalities have committed to apply turnaround strategies to ensure that by end of this financial year there was 100% expenditure on all grants.

“As municipalities we need to be innovative in the way we do things, we need to come up with new ways of doing things so that we get the result we want and the outcomes that our communities expect. To make sure there is service delivery to the people, we must be innovative, we cannot be using old ways which are not giving us the desired results especially when it comes to MIG allocated projects. We need to work hard because hard work always pays off. We must always remember that we are here for service delivery, if we fail at it then we are not doing our jobs and our communities are adversely impacted,” said Mayor Nxumalo. The District and its local Municipalities are already planning for the next financial year which is 2024/2025 as to where the grant allocation will assist impactfully.



It was a beautiful day for local business who received a needed boost as Dunlop fitment centre were officially handed over.

Dunlop fitment centres officially handed over in the Harry Gwala District

IN a bid to encourage communities in business, the Harry Gwala District Municipality in conjunction with the Municipality's Development Agency recently handed over four Dunlop Tyre Fitment Centres to beneficiaries within the district.

Mayor Cllr Nxumalo, the District's political champion for Growth and Development, along with Mayors, Councillors and officials from Greater Kokstad, Umzimkhulu, uBuhlebezwe and Dr NDZ local municipalities, handed over one of the four Dunlop Tyre Fitment Centres to each Municipality

recently. The handover, in partnership with Sumitomo Rubber SA (Dunlop) has ensured the establishment of four businesses, all owned by young people, three males and one female.

"As government, we remain committed to ensuring that opportunities are made available as a mechanism to provide access to job creation, retention of economic spend across the District coupled with skills transfer to advance the sustainability of business," said Mayor Nxumalo

This initiative was part of Township Revitalisation and it part of Rural Economic Development.

New equipment to intensify service delivery



The District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo tried out the TLB (tractor) to see if it works, when it was handed over to the Water Service Department. This TLB is to assist to speed up service delivery in the District.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality has bolstered its machinery by procuring new equipment to assist with repairing the damaged sewage pipes and to fix water infrastructure under the District. The Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, handed over a new TLB (tractor-loader-backhoe) vehicle to the Water Services Department on recently.

This follows hot on the heels of the 12 municipal vehicles, purchased last year, also to assist with service delivery. The Municipality procured the machinery to speed up services to communities and to do that at an advanced pace the District needed to have its own equipment to be able to undertake required tasks, rather than to rely on service providers, which may hamper the urgency of dealing with the challenges as they arise due to ensuring that supply chain management processes are adhered to.

The District Mayor stated that the Municipality is fully cognizant of numerous complaints of damaged sewer pipes and other water and sanitation issues which requires urgent special attention.

Moreover, the Mayor emphasised that this will speed up the implementation of service delivery where needed.

“Our intention is to provide accessible water and sanitation as water is life and sanitation is dignity and at this point, we felt there is a need for this kind of machinery to be sourced to accomplish our duty of providing such services to the people at a rapid pace. When there are burst pipes or sewer spillage we will not wait for the service providers to be sources but we will respond faster to get the job done,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The District Mayor further added that government believes that its residents have the right to clean, drinkable uninterrupted water services and proper sanitation facilities.



It was a joyous day when the finance department employees received a well deserving qualification in Municipal Finance Management Programme and Public Administration.

The Harry Gwala finance team shines at graduation

EIGHTY graduates from the Harry Gwala District Municipality hoisted the flag of the Municipality during the graduation season late last year on a day coined as Excellence Day graduates received their certificates.

Fachs International College/Group hosted a certification ceremony for learners who had passed their various qualifications. These included learners from various entities such as Amajuba Municipality, Harry Gwala Municipality, Maphumulo Municipality, Umzumbe Municipality, Joburg Road Agency, Sci-Bono, Department of Social Development, Mkhondo Municipality and NECSA. The qualifications included programmes accredited by the following SETAs: Services SETA, PSETA and LGSETA.

The LGSETA, said they were proud of the municipalities that ensured that education and training is implemented within their institutions. The learners received their certificates in Project Management, Municipal Finance Management Programme and Public Administration.

Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo congratulated employees from the municipality who graduated and said this will assist in improving service delivery. “The most important part of service delivery is that we must budget accordingly so that our communities get the necessary services. These graduates will assist the municipality in ensuring that we reach our goals



and deliver the service to our communities,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The message delivered by the speakers at graduation was that “EDUCATION IS KEY.” The emphasis was that: “You must be the change you wish to see in the world” a quote attributed to Mahatma Gandhi an anti-colonial nationalist and political ethicist who employed nonviolent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India’s independence.

Mayor Nxumalo together with the Local Mayors in the District Speak Service delivery



In one voice Mayors spoke about progress on service delivery when they had a radio interview on Igagasi FM. The District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo leading the Mayors said it was important that service delivery is communicated with the public so that when the public is satisfied or have any complaints they can be heard. Mayors were joined by Municipal Managers for the engagement.

THE Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality reached out to the residents of the district recently when he was live on Gagasi FM radio station to speak about development in as far as service delivery is concerned, more especially water and sanitation.

This time, he was accompanied by all the Local Mayors in the District, being uMzimkhulu Municipality Mayor Cllr. Jabulile Msiya, uBuhlebezwe Municipality Mayor Cllr. Bathobile Ngubo, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality Mayor Cllr. Sindisiwe Msomi and Greater Kokstad Municipality Mayor Cllr. Lwanda Madikizela.

In one voice all these Mayors spoke about progress on service delivery in different areas within the District and also where they would like to improve.

The Public Engagement was on the 12th of December, on Indaba with Alex Mthiyane on Gagasi FM. The discussions were around the plans and strategies that the municipality has in place in ensuring adequate delivery of services to the people.

Allowing the public the platform to call in and ask questions as well as raise comments where

necessary, gave both the municipality and the public a fair chance of interaction. All the Mayors portrayed a cool, calm and collected attitude through the entire interview.

Mayor Nxumalo mentioned that water and sanitation remain the core mandate of Harry Gwala. He further said that as the year 2023 drew to a close and heralded a start of 2024, the municipality would make its priority to follow up on all water/sanitation related projects.

Mayor Msiya spoke on the impact of the District Development Module (DDM) in Umzimkhulu.

Mayor Ngubo spoke on key challenges that her municipality faces and what plans are in place to avert these challenges.

And Mayor Madikizela spoke on pursuing the Eastern Seaboard Smart City vision and unpacking this vision on how it would benefit the Greater Kokstad Municipality and its people.

The Mayors thanked the Gagasi team for warmly welcoming them especially the host of the show Mr Alex Mthiyane and others who made this public engagement to be successful.

Certificates handover to yellow plant machinery trainees



Students were overwhelmed with joy when they received certificate for competency training operating TLB's. This initiative aims to contributing positively to the majority of unemployment and unskilled youth. The certificate were handed over in a meeting held at the Harry Gwala District Municipal Council Chamber at Ixopo, by the District Mayor Cllr.Z.D Nxumalo.

TRAINEES who completed the competency training on efficiently operating TLBs within the Harry Gwala District Municipality received their certificates of completion recently from the Harry Gwala District Municipality

District Mayor, Cllr ZD Nxumalo accompanied by Deputy Mayor Cllr N Jojozi, Speaker Cllr M.S.D Mdunge and Municipal Manager Mr. GM Sineke officially handed over certificates of competence to the beneficiaries of the Youth TLB Training Programme.

In his keynote address, Mayor Nxumalo said that youth development remains one of the core mandates of Harry Gwala District Municipality, therefore it is with great pride and excitement to see successes of such initiatives. He further stated that skills development provides unemployed youth in the District with opportunities to be trained and work in their communities so that they to provide the necessary services and contribute positively towards local socio-economic development.

Twelve (12) young people across the District were trained in operating the Tractor Loader Backhoe (TLB). The training took five days and was held under uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, in Benmore Farm to be precise.

This initiative aims to contribute positively to the majority of unemployed and unskilled youth of Harry Gwala District. It will also empower those who wish to contribute towards economic growth and job creation as they are now eligible for employment in this field with expertise to operate the machinery which forms part of the yellow plant definition.

This training is in line with enhancing Employment Equity and BBBEE Support. Through this kind of program, the municipality is aligning itself with one of South Africa's goals of promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities within the workforce.

Certificates were handed over to the following candidates:

1. Mdunge ebohang
2. Mtolu Ayanda
3. Ngxabi Nstikelelo Blessing
4. Buyeye Siphokazi Zolelwa Precious
5. Sithole Lindokuhle Innocent
6. Shange Mthobisi Anele Amos
7. Dlamini Qiniso
8. Dlamini Thalente
9. Nyawose Bongumusa Condry
10. Nxele Sihle
11. Mngqithi Myekeli
12. Tshabalala Khanyiso



The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Hon. Mondli Gungubele launched a broadband access fund in ward 1 | Greater Kokstad.

Launch of the Broadband Access Fund, a presidential employment stimulus project in Harry Gwala District Municipality

THE Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Hon Mondli Gungubele, as the Political Champion of the Harry Gwala District Development Model (DDM) together with KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Hon Nomusa Dube-Ncube, MEC for Transport and KZN Provincial DDM Champion for Harry Gwala, Siphso Hlomuka, Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo and the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Lwanda Madikizela launched the Broadband Access Fund in Ward 1, in Greater Kokstad recently.

The Broadband Access Fund, which forms part of the SA Connect Phase 2 project was created through the Presidential Employment Stimulus to provide partial subsidies to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to connect 50,000 households and 3,000 community Wi-Fi hotspots. The fund propels SMMEs that are ISPs to expand broadband connectivity in underserved areas, significantly improving broadband penetration, reducing broadband prices, increasing employment, and driving economic growth.

Mzansi Connect, the ISP appointed by BBI deployed the first Gigabit Mesh Network in the Harry Gwala District, assisting government to connect 1 600 households, benefiting over 6 000 individuals in Ward 1 of the Greater Kokstad Municipality, making Ward 1 the first wall-to-wall connected site in the KwaZulu-Natal Province.

“Through the Broadband Access Fund, government has reduced the cost of data considerably with packages from as little as R5 per day Wi-Fi connectivity. We are enabling our people to have access to the internet in an affordable, secure and safe way. We intend to connect more than a million households over the next six months,” said Minister Gungubele.

Minister Gungubele further added that “as government we are very excited that the Gigabit Mesh Network model is designed, planned, and built by young engineers with the oldest being 25 years old. This speaks to our commitment to empowering young people, women, and people with disabilities.”

“As the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, we are very excited about the launch of this initiative in Greater Kokstad Municipality. This programme really speaks to access for our poor communities in the province. As we continue to work with the Minister on the implementation of the SA Connect Phase 2 project, we anticipate that we will empower over a million people with job opportunities,” said Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube.

The Gigabit Mesh Network model has been shared to 25 SMMEs from Mpumalanga, Gauteng, KZN, Eastern Cape, Free State, and Northern Cape. The model is based on a ward-by-ward deployment plan where jobs are created in each ward by establishing and training SMMEs to maintain the network in the ward. “This model has demonstrated considerable economic spin-offs in our communities. Young people can establish and run their businesses online, apply for jobs, and access to internet provides educational opportunities. Businesses can take online orders and residents can access online government services faster and in a more affordable manner while municipalities can save costs and enhance revenue collection through online municipal services,” Minister Gungubele concluded. To date, the Broadband Access Fund has empowered 16 ISPs that are SMMEs across the country creating job opportunities for youth, women and people with disabilities. Issued by the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies.



It was a sad day for Harry Gwala District employees, and the community at large when they bid farewell to the former Mayor Mr Jini Patrick Khoza. Many express their gratitude to him and how he served his community.

Former Mayor fondly remembered

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality celebrated the life of the former Mayor. The Peace Initiative Hall, in IXopo, was full to capacity when the municipalities under the district of Harry Gwala converged to celebrate the life of the former Mayor, Mr. Jini Patrick Khoza recently.

Former managers and colleagues, who served under his term of office as the Mayor, mourned with the family and friends through different speeches, expressing sorrow and offering strength to the family. They described Mr Khoza as polite, a unifier and respectful. His untimely death on November 5, 2023- has inflicted deep wounds to his family members and loved ones as well as to the communities of Harry Gwala District and it will take some time to recover from the loss.

The District Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, while delivering a eulogy, labelled Khoza as his father whom he looked up to through his good teachings. "It's a difficult time for me personally as we were very close. He was like a father to me," said Cllr Nxumalo. He said Mr Khoza and his wife, Mrs Khoza, who is the current MEC for the KwaZulu-Natal Social Development Department, are like his parents and the former Mayor's absence in life was like a part of him was lost.

Cllr Nxumalo added: "People would crack jokes that he deliberately placed me and groomed me to different positions to gain experience until the current position I am holding of being a Mayor as I am also the Chairperson of the ruling party like him." However, in the ANC, it doesn't work like that. "What makes me happy is that he retired from being Mayor in 2011 to spend time with his family even though we would love to see him continuing to lead us as he was a man of peace who was a unifier," added Cllr Nxumalo,

emphasizing that he had learnt a lot from both the Khozas.

Former MEC, Mr Mike Mabuyakhulu, was amongst the senior political leaders present at the memorial service. He described Mr Khoza as a hard worker and a foot soldier who sacrificed his life and family time to work tirelessly for the people of Harry Gwala District. "He was a people's person, a person who put the people first. We are nothing without him and his passing is a griefuneasy to forget. He would put his family first...he loved his family," Mabuyakhulu said.

Khoza was described as someone who was full of life, a man who cared for the underprivileged. His struggle to assist the people was not limited to the boardroom, but he would be on the ground, making sure the people had water in this district.

"We will miss him as a kind man who was generous, good-hearted and was always positive even in the face of adversity," said former Municipal Manager, Mr M.N. Mabaso.

Speaking on behalf of the family, his brother, Mr Thumbu Khoza, said they had lost a precious human being who loved his family, his political party and the community he worked for. "It is a difficult time for us as a family to lose someone like him, a man that was everything to us. I am shattered. It is hard for all of us as we are because of my brother," he said. He added that his brother prioritised education and made it a point that they were educated, but not only them, even his children. "As a family, we were proud of everything he did for us and all that he achieved. He loved working for his community," said Mr Khoza, who couldn't contain his tears. Khoza was laid to rest on Saturday 11 November 2023.

IXOPO COMMUNITY CELEBRATES MEC NKONYENI'S FINANCIAL WELLNESS PROGRAMME



MEC for Finance, Ms Nelisiwe Peggy Nkonyeni, during a financial wellness programme, asked community members to be mindful of their finances and inculcate a culture of financial planning.

FESTIVE season has come and gone, however to the community of IXopo it came with welcomed comprehensive strategic packaged Financial Wellness Programme led by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Finance, Ms Nelisiwe Peggy Nkonyeni.

The MEC accompanied by local Mayors and various government and private sector stakeholders held an outreach programme at the Peace Initiative Hall in Harry Gwala District to empower communities/households/individuals with information on how to plan for their financial health, to inculcate a culture of financial planning, to provide a networking platform for financial planning as well as to help build a generation that prioritizes planning of finances in a bid to help build a financially healthy nation. This community empowerment session was enriched by the presence of experts and specialists from KwaZulu-Natal Government's Provincial Banker, Standard Bank, SMME and Cooperatives Units from the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Ezemvelo Wildlife, Dube Trade Port, IThala, KZN Liquor Authority and the Harry Gwala Development Agency.

Makhosi Latha from KwaThathani in ward 10 under uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, said the Financial Wellness Programme has opened her eyes on the need to plan how finances must be used. "I came to this event because I realized there is something I could gain... This event has taught me that there are more things I need to do to manage my money.

I am sure that many people here have also benefited because these are the lessons we need under the current economic situation," she said.

Thobeka Mbatha from Jolivet said financial wellness came at the right time for her because she hates stress related to unwise use of money. "This event has taught me that I can avoid stress by planning how I use my money. I have also heard about investment options. I am happy I came to this event," said Mbatha.

Speaking during the event, MEC Nkonyeni said it is important for individuals, families and businesses to be vigilant on how they use their finances under this stressful economic situation. "As the Provincial Treasury, we have decided to embark on this financial education drive to help our communities. We plan to roll out this education throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal in order to promote financial wellness and to encourage people to look after their finances. We want to caution people to avoid borrowing money in order for them to be able to buy school uniforms for their children. We must spend responsibly," she said. Cllr Nosisa Jojozi, Deputy Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality said it was important to teach communities how to use their finances. "It is our deep appreciation to have MEC Nkonyeni undertake such a crucial programme of teaching communities, especially SMMEs on how to handle finances. It is indeed within her mandate to educate and guide in order to establish and nurture healthy communities," she said.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE: INCIDENT REPORT

TYPE OF INCIDENT: **HEAVY RAINFALL & THUNDERSTORM INCIDENTS**

DATE OF INCIDENT: **JANUARY 2024**

DURING the month of January 2024, the South African Weather Services (SAWS) issued level 2 and 4 weather warnings of disruptive rainfall. From December to January 2024 there has been a number of incidents that occurred in KwaZulu-Natal Province and Harry Gwala District Municipality is one of the districts that have been affected by the heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm, strong winds and flooding. To ensure and protect the public as the adverse weather may pose danger to the lives and lead to localized flooding of roads and bridges. The district, local municipalities and relevant stakeholders were informed of the weather warnings and the teams were put on standby.

The heavy rainfall resulted in several houses being damaged and others having roofs blown away, most of the mud houses in the affected households collapsed due to heavy rainfalls and drowning incidents occurred within the district.

From the 9th to the 18th of January 2024, Harry Gwala District Municipality also experienced heavy rainfall, strong winds, thunderstorm, lightning, and flooding that resulted in another drowning incidents in all four Local Municipalities.

A total of three hundred and sixty (360) which is the total number of households that were affected., 47 homeless, One hundred and fifty one (151) totally destroyed, One ninety one (191) partially damaged, One thousand seven hundred and twenty eight (1728) people affected, 4 fatalities confirmed by SAPS, three drownings (uMzimkhulu and Dr NDZ, one (house collapsed on top of the deceased at uMzimkhulu, 1 missing person as a result of drowning in Kokstad, and 6 injuries reported at Ubuhlebezwe.

DR NDZ LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality reported a storm comprising of strong winds and heavy rainfall on the 17th of January 2024. The storm affected the

following wards: 1, 2, 3, 4,5,6,7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15. The teams are out conducting assessments and the report will be updated as the information comes in.

The reports received are for collapsed houses and displaced households. One fatality (drowning) no injuries reported.

Ward	Area	Number of households affected
1	Mqatsheni and Mhlangeni	2
2	Enkuznini, Enhlanhleni and Mahwaqa	7
3	Khubeni	1
4	Phayindane, Kwashoba, Mashayilanga, Ezidweni, Madwaleni, Nsimbini	9
6	Ngcesheni, Maqoleni, Mathunzini, Vusamavila	6
7	Gqumeni, Mpengwana, Gala	12
8	Sibizane, Bhobhoyi, Kamagidela, Ngwagwane	9
9	Sopholile, Ezitendeni, kwa Phini, Y-Section, Nkwezela, Bhambatha and Obhukwini	9
10	Chibini, Xosheyakhe, Ntokozweni, Gobhogobho	11
11	eSharp, Okhwalweni, Ntambamakhaba, Emangwaneni, Macabazini, Mafohla, Emvuleni, Mkhohlwa, Ntambamakhaba and St Catherine	30
15	Masamini	1
TOTAL		97



Figure 1: KwaZaca in ward 2 Mahwaqa area under Dr. NDZ

Figure2: Kwa Dlamini in ward 7 Reethabile area under Dr. NDZ

Table 1: Number of incidents and impact per Local Municipality

Local Municipalities	Number of Incidents	Households Affected	Houses Destroyed		Homeless	People Affected	Fatalities	Injuries
			Totally Destroyed	Partially Damaged				
Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma	2	113	19	83	10	569	1	0
Ubuhlebezwe	2	64	22	30	12	457	0	6
uMzimkhulu	3	141	68	78	25	578	3	0
Greater Kokstad	1	42	42	0	0	124	1 missing	0
TOTAL	8	360	151	191	47	1728	5	6

UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

UBuhlebezwe Local Municipality experienced heavy rainfall, thunderstorm accompanied by lightning, and strong winds. The heavy rainfall affected ward 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. A total of four hundred and fifty-seven (457) people were affected by the incident. Six (6) families were left homeless, thirty (30) houses were totally destroyed and twenty-two (22) were partially damaged.

Ward	Area	Number of households affected
1	Mahhehle, Ncakubana, Eziweni, Mahhafana	18
3	Ofafa, Ntakama	12
4	Mashakeni, Mandilini	6
9	Springvale, KoZondi, KoShange, Mntungwane, Eplangweni	11
10	Mhlabashane	1
11	Emahusheni	5
12	Mazabekweni	1
13	KwaMashumi, Nokweja	2
14	EMzumbe, Ebhayi	6
TOTAL		63

There are a number of low-lying bridges that are submerged in water and others have been damaged. The following bridges were affected:

1. Dabe
2. Ntakama
3. Bhensela



Figure 2: Dabe bridge in Ward 3 Ofafa area under Ubuhebezwe



Figure 2: Collapsed house for Khambule family in Ofafa Emashakeni Gquzu area under Ubuhebewe

UMZIMKHULU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

UMzimkhulu Local Municipality experienced strong winds and heavy rainfall. The storm affected wards 7, 8, 11, 12,13,14, 15, 20,21 and 22. A total of One hundred and forty one (141) households affected, twenty five (25) families were left homeless, sixty eight (68) totally destroyed, seventy eight (78) were partially damaged, five hundred and seventy eight (578) people affected, three fatalities confirmed by SAPS (2 drownings and 1 house collapsed).

In Deepdale ward 22, a house collapsed and resulted in a fatality. A four (4) year old child, Siphenthi Dzanibe is reported to have died as a result of the injuries from the rumble when the house collapsed.

Ward	Area	Number of households affected
Ward 7	Mfulamhle	1
Ward 8	Ngunjini, Driefontein	10
Ward 11	James	3
Ward 12	Machunwini, Rietvlei	2
Ward 13	Teekloof,	14
Ward 14	Siphahleni and Gugwini	12
Ward 15	Summerfield, Ironlesh, Gcebeni, Bombo	41
Ward 20	Blema, Thembeni, Thafeni, Strangers Rest, Washbank, Moyeni	26
Ward 22	Khiliva, Deepdale, Makhaleni, KwaTshali, Mahobe, Farm, Matsheni, Mahlomane	32
TOTAL		141

GREATER KOKSTAD MUNICIPALITY

On the 9th and 10th of January 2024, GKM experienced heavy rainfall incidents and flooding that occurred at Mphela Ward 8.

Forty-two (42) households were partially damaged by water getting into their mud houses and shacks. One drowning incident occurred on the 10th of January 2024; a 6-year-old boy was crossing the Umzintlava river near Mphela. Port Shepstone Search & Rescue team was activated to conduct a search of a missing boy.

Ward	Area	Number of households affected
09	Mphela	42
TOTAL		42

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROVIDED

- 81 Blankets
- 69 Mattresses/sponges
- 106 Plastic Sheeting's
- 0 Food parcels
- 6 Box B
- 2 Tents

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- Harry Gwala District Municipality Disaster Management Centre
- Local Municipalities
- HGDM Water Services
- Provincial Disaster Management Centre
- National & Provincial Department of Human Settlements
- South African Police Services (SAPS)
- SASSA
- Ward Councilor's and Ward Committees
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
- Department of transport
- Department of Education

The district Municipality 's disaster management team and Local municipalities continue to monitor the vulnerable and high-risk areas. The district and Local municipalities are working closely with sector departments and other stakeholders as they continue to be on standby.

GREATER SUMMERFIELD WATER SUPPLY SCHEME PHASE 2

In keeping with the function of providing water and drinkable water for all its citizens, the Harry Gwala District Municipality has commenced with a multi million run water project that is set to benefit nearly 3000 households.

The Greater Summerfield Water Supply Scheme project falls under Ward 9,17 and 20 under the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality.. The contractor appointed that is currently on site is Msalela Transport CC. The contractor will be responsible for the UPGRADING OF CLEAR

WATER RISING MAIN AND 3ML COMMAND RESERVOIR WITHIN THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY. The project was awarded to Msalela Transport CC to the value of R 68 791 868.25 incl. VAT & contingencies. The project will benefit the villages of Clydesdale ,Madakeni and Mathathane during construction and later distribute water to 21 additional villages as this project is the bulk pipeline feeding the command water storages. The project will benefit a total of 2984 households.



Site Camp.



355mm OPVC pipe being delivered.



Excavation of the rising main pipeline started, preparing bedding of the pipeline.



Pipe laying in progress.



Pipe Laying In Progress, To date the contractor has laid 486m of 355mm diameter pipe, the work was done in three consecutive days.



Pipelaying in progress and backfilling

Challenges: Delay of Issuing of the Construction permit.

MAZIZINI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME



Project description:

The primary objective of this programme is to ensure that the population of the Mazizini, Malamula, Mandilini, Makholweni, Esperanza/Mariathal, Shezlom, KwaSbindi, KwaCheckersof ward 3 in Ubuhlebezwe LM are relieved of the stress resultant from lack of portable water supplies which are of reliable supply and accepted quality. This is being done through the supply and installation of intervention water supply by the Mazizini Water Supply Scheme through funds supplied by DWS under Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG). The Water Services Infrastructure Grant funding intervention through this project will alleviate water availability challenges for the community through investigation, testing and equipping of boreholes, design and implementation of associated pumps, pipelines and storages augmentation within WSIG's statutory project implementation period. The total population on this technical report is 1980 of 396 households based on

an assumption of average of 5 people per household.
Current status: 89% Progress on Construction of Contract 1 & 2

Province: Kwa-Zulu Natal Province

Municipality: Harry Gwala DM

Jobs impact (achieved): 0

Direct project construction jobs: 15

Households Impact (achieved): None

Households to be served: 422

Project Value: R 31 897 797,88

Project allocation: R 19 564 641,15 incl. VAT (2023/2024 FY)

Project Scope:

- Drilling, testing and equipping of 8 boreholes
- Installation of 20kl/hr. pump and motor;
- Construction of 17.2km rising mains and associated structures
- Construction of 400kl storage tank and its control structures
- Construction and refurbishment of reticulation and communal standpipes;

Project schedule (Start and End date):

Project construction commenced: 30th March 2023

Scheduled Completion: 30 November 2023

Revised Completion Date: 31st March 2024

Hand over: Not yet achieved

Expenditure Progress: R 19 093 721,58 Incl. VAT

Progress/Issues: 98%, Expenditure

CUSTOMER CARE INFORMATION

1. HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CALL CENTRE (0860103651 / 060570693)

It is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, call centre that logs all customer complaints regarding all water, sanitation, billing, planned and unplanned water interruptions, burst pipes, sewer spillages, and faulty meters. The purpose of the Call Centre is to handle all customer queries relating to municipal services and to ensure that at least 80% of queries received at first contact are resolved.

The Call Centre is designed for customers/residents who would rather communicate with the municipality by telephone, and also designed for Customers/residents who would rather meet with a member of staff and discuss a query. Facebook is designed for Customers/residents who would rather communicate with the municipality using social media. The Facebook page is managed by the Communication team.

2. WHAT IS THE CALL CENTRE NUMBER? 0860103651 / 060570693

WHY SHOULD CUSTOMERS/CITIZENS USE THE CALL CENTRE?

It is important to encourage customers/citizens to report problems as early as possible, using the most appropriate channel. A reported water burst, unauthorised connection, sewer spillage, and vandalism

of water infrastructure give the municipality, the opportunity to fix the problem, reduce the potential loss and provide sustainable services to its communities.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Customer Care has developed an ongoing program targeting public awareness campaigns. Public water conservation campaigns raise awareness at all levels of society about the importance of saving water to cope with its scarcity and ensure sustainability. The aim is to change citizen attitudes and behaviour to improve water use efficiency. The content and themes of campaigns are reviewed to assess suitability and address current issues facing that specific community. Content targeted includes water conservation, health and hygiene, vandalism of water infrastructure, and sewer spillages.

3. WATER SAVING TIPS

- Fix leaking taps or report them immediately
- Report unauthorized water and sewerage connections.
- Make use of "grey water". This is the water from your kitchen and bathroom that can be reused in the garden.
- Collect rainwater for irrigation from the roof in tanks or containers placed under roof gutters.
- Close the tap when brushing your teeth. Rather use water from a cup.

Water Services Director hopes to enhance revenue collection, human resource development, and increase job creation

MR. Lindumusa Gwala joined Harry Gwala District Municipality as the Executive Director of Water Services from 01 November 2023. He has more than 22 years of experience that he has accumulated mainly in the Public Sector. He has worked for all three spheres of government in a built environment.

Mr Gwala matriculated at Kwamathanda High School in Umlazi. He studied towards a National Diploma in Civil Engineering at Mangosuthu Technikon which he completed in 2000. Mr Gwala worked for the KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs from year 2021 as an Industrial Technician.

His role in the department was to provide engineering support and services like surveying sites/farms, designing, planning, and constructing of all agricultural infrastructure such as storage dams, canals, pipelines, irrigation schemes, soil conservation structures, access roads, and drainage systems. He then studied towards a Bachelor Degree of Technology (B-Tech Degree) in Civil Engineering at the Durban University of Technology and graduated in 2006.

Mr Gwala worked for the KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs for over 4 years until he was promoted to the National Department of Public Works.

Mr Gwala joined the National Department of Public Works as a Control Industrial Technician in March 2006 in Durban KZN. His role in the department was primarily the supervision of Industrial Technicians within the Professional Services section at the Durban Regional Office of (NDPW). Mr Gwala was promoted to the KZN Provincial Department of Public Works (Head Office) in January 2008. He was stationed in Pietermaritzburg in the position of Deputy Manager in Programme Management.

The calling to serve the citizens of South Africa drove Mr Gwala to join O. R Tambo District Municipality (ORTDM) in Umtata for 5 years as a Project Manager from September 2010. After leaving ORTDM, Mr Gwala joined Alfred Nzo District Municipality in Emaxesibeni as a Project Manager from September 2015 until May 2019.

Before joining Harry Gwala District Municipality, Mr Gwala was employed by Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality in Bizana as Senior



Mr Lindumusa Gwala, the new Executive Director of Water Services.

Manager of Engineering Services from June 2019 until September 2023.

Throughout his tenure in local government, Mr Gwala has been consistent in ensuring that grant funding meant for service delivery is spent within an applicable legislative framework. He finds pleasure in seeing communities benefitting from quality service delivery initiatives with positive socio-economic benefits.

Mr Gwala has acquired vast experience in Project, Finance, and Human Resources Management. As the Executive Director of Water Services, would like to contribute towards efficient water services delivery, enhance revenue collection, human resource development, and capacitation, increase job creation, and local economic development.

MEC Khoza encourages active participation in local economy



Women in entrepreneurship graduated from an intensive business management training programme which is aim at assisting them in their business. Equipment to assist them were given by the department of Social Development. In this programme they worked with SEDA.

IN a spirited address to women entrepreneurs graduating from an intensive business management training programme in Ixopo, Harry Gwala District, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development, MEC Mrs Nonhlanhla Khoza, rallied women to embrace opportunities and become integral players in their local economies. Her message emphasised seizing government opportunities aimed at fostering women's participation across all economic sectors, irrespective of their geographical locations within the province.

Speaking during the graduation of a group of women who underwent the training, MEC Khoza underscored the importance of women taking centre stage, rather than being relegated to the periphery. The initiative is a collaborative effort between the department and SEDA, aimed at equipping aspiring entrepreneurs with essential skills and knowledge to successfully establish and manage their businesses.

MEC Khoza expressed satisfaction with the comprehensive training sessions covering critical areas such as business management, financial planning, marketing and operational efficiency. "We are committed to leaving no woman behind," she remarked. "By empowering these women, we are not only transforming individual lives, but also uplifting entire communities through job creation and economic stimulation. We want to see these women changing their lives. We have opened the opportunity for them and now we want them to establish themselves in business, sewing school uniforms, hospital linen and

church attires in their localities," she said.

Lillian Shezi Changwe, a beneficiary of the programme, lauded government's support, stating: "The Department has transformed our prospects. With newfound skills and resources, we are poised to thrive as entrepreneurs and contribute meaningfully to our communities."

During the ceremony, MEC Khoza presented certificates to the graduates and furnished them with start-up kits tailored to their specific business ventures. These kits, comprising essential equipment and materials, aim to bolster the sustainability and success of their enterprises.

MEC Khoza handed over three Kingstar Flat Machines, three Domestic Sewing Machines, one Heavy duty Overlocker, one Gravity iron (bottle steam), one Teflon Shoe, one Ironing board and three Sishweshwe Fabric and three cats blue 50m/roll to each group of women organization that participated in the training.

MEC Khoza said women should each other supported each other and continue to strive for the better. "The department will be following up on all you do and help to ensure your businesses remain stable." Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, Harry Gwala District Mayor said it was important that business people specially women are supported.

The Department of Social Development's investment of over R1 million in women's development in the Harry Gwala District underscores its dedication to creating a more inclusive and prosperous society.

2023/2024 ADJUSTMENTS BUDGET

2023/2024 ADJUSTMENT BUDGET ALLOCATION

THE annual operating and capital budgets have been evaluated and adjusted based s72 of the MFMA. This report is a summary of the main budget issues arising from the budget assessment process. It compares the process of the budget to the projections contained in the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan.

The following matters in the preparation of the 2023/2024 Adjustments Budget have been considered:

1. Adjustments of various operating revenue items such as interest earned and service charges
2. Adjustment of expenditure items such as Contracted Services, and general expenses.

3. Improvement or acceleration of expenditure on Capital projects.
4. The municipality should also ensure that the Adjustments Budget is funded.

ADJUSTED REVENUE

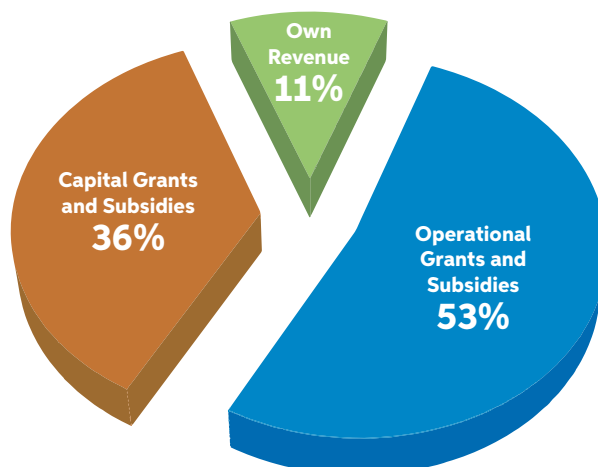
The total adjusted budget amounts to R912, 6m from the original budget of R909,6m. This income is derived mainly from Government Grants & Subsidies (i.e. MIG, WSIG & Equitable Share) and service charges which is sale of water and sanitation. The revenue is adjusted by R2,9 million. This has been allocated as follows to the operational and capital budget;

REVENUE ALLOCATION

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	ADJUSTED BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Operational Grants & Subsidies	R 493 839 885	R 479 090 050	-R 14 749 835
Capital Grants & Subsidies	R 321 352 114	R 330 761 529	R 9 409 415
Own Revenue	R 94 491 861	R 102 784 525	R 8 292 664
TOTAL	R 909 683 860	R 912 636 104	R 2 952 244

PERCENTAGE REVENUE SOURCES

2023/2024 REVENUE SOURCES



Harry Gwala District Municipality and family of municipalities launch LGBTQIA+ Forum



We are all human and should be treated with respect, whatever sexually we choose, said the Harry Gwala District Speaker during the LGBTQIA+ launch at the Disaster Management Centre in Ixopo

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality spearheaded the launch of the local LGBTQIA+ Forum held at the Disaster Centre in IXopo recently.

This launch was attended by the officials from the District and the sister municipalities, that is the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Ubuhlebezwe, uMzimkhulu and the Greater Kokstad municipalities as well as the provincial structure of LGBTQIA+ Forum.

The LGBTQIA+ Forum is set to be very useful because it will provide information about the forum members' respective sexuality so that people are not discriminated against. This Forum will further create an atmosphere of understanding and promote programs and services for the targeted community.

In his keynote address the District Speaker, Cllr Sbhongiseni Mdunge offered support and congratulated the elected new structure of the LGBTQIA+ Forum and encouraged them to work hard in ensuring the LGBTQIA+ community receives the assistance they require. "Your responsibility as the leaders is to lead all the community of LGBTQIA+ and make them proud of their sexuality also to fight the violence against LGBTQIA+ community because this is a democratic government guided by the Constitution which says that everyone has the rights to live," said the Speaker.

Cllr Mdunge added: "The Harry Gwala District supports you and will make sure we inform and

educate our community about LGBTQIA+. In addition the District Speaker also made a pledge that the District will assist with resources and public awareness campaigns to improve the LGBTQIA+ Forum because this is also part of service delivery to the public. The District will make an engagement with the Traditional Forum, Women's Forum and Men's Forum to accept this new forum within the district. "As the LGBTQIA+ we must make this structure work and be successful, as we are all human beings beyond LGBTQIA+, where there is love there is a way," said Provincial Representative Mr Syabonga Khumalo.

The newly elected chairperson of the LGBTQIA+ Forum expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Harry Gwala team who made this launch a success and encouraged the LGBTQIA+ forum to always practice peace and love towards each other. Elected forum members are as follows:

- Chairperson - Bongeka Malamulela from uMzimkhulu
- Deputy Chairperson - Andile Kheswa from NDZ
- Secretary - Fika Khumalo from NDZ
- Deputy Secretary - Thobeka Ngcobo from Kokstad
- Treasury - Andy Heslop also from uMzimkhulu

Additional members elected to the Forum were Thandeka Ngcobo, Londi Ngcobo, and Ayanda Mahlamvu.

A multi-million road upgrade as part of efforts of boosting the rural economy is underway



The Department of Transport recently handed over a contractor for the construction of P419 under the Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality and P417 in uMzimkhulu Local Municipality. MEC for transport Siphon Hlomuka said they have listened to what the community needs and have delivered to the promise. The construction of these road will mean opportunity for local business people and community members will be employed.

THE KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety, and Liaison Siphon Hlomuka, recently officially handed over a contractor to the community of Bulwer that will soon commence with the construction of P419.

The project entails the upgrading of 11 kilometers of existing gravel to blacktop at an estimated total construction cost of R297 million. The road serves the communities of Pholela, Bidla, Zashuke, Bethlehem, Esphahleni, Etafuleni, and Nkwezela in Wards 9 and 12. The road provides access to Mandlezizwe, Bhidla, Lubovana, Luhana, Zashuke, Siphahleni, Mphaphetha, Siqhoza, Dingeka, Mzwendaba, Pholela Special, Bhambatha, Nkwezela Schools directly or via the District and Local Roads. Pholela Health facility can be accessed directly from P419.

The project will create job opportunities for the locals and will also provide opportunities to emerging contractors through the implementation of the Contractor Participation Goals. The road transverses from the R617 from the north to the R617 in the south towards the Pietermaritzburg region. The contractor, KPMM Roads and Earthworks (Pty) Ltd) was officially introduced to the community by the MEC, signalling the commencement of the construction phase. MEC Hlomuka was accompanied by the leadership of the Harry Gwala District Municipality led by Mayor Cllr. Zamo

Nxumalo, along with the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality Mayor Cllr. Sindisiwe Msomi, Amakhosi and various departmental stakeholders.

Speaking at the event the District Mayor said he was excited that the road that the community has been waiting for will finally be built and asked the community members to make sure they assist the constructors and the Department of Transport in ensuring that there is no disturbance in the implementation of the project.

“The road being built here does not belong to Hlomuka, does not belong to the Department (Transport) but it is yours as the community so please make sure that you protect it, make sure the construction goes on smoothly without any disturbances,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The upgrading of the portion of Main Road P419 will support the extensive growth and development within the area and will encourage further growth by providing better transport infrastructure. The project will, for its duration, assist in the alleviation of unemployment and poverty in the surrounding areas by means of additional job creation and skills to be acquired, especially by the youth. During the construction of this road locals employed will receive training through Construction Education Training Authority (CETA) accredited learnerships to develop their skills thus empowering them for other job opportunities.



Commemorating World Aids Day, candles were lit in remembrance of those infected and affected as well as those who have passed on due to complication related to this dreaded disease.

District utilizes sports to drive point home on ending GBV

UTILIZING the unifying power of sport, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Siphon Hlomuka, Mayor for Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, traditional and local leaders recently partook in a sports day to commemorate World Aids Day and to drive the point home of ending gender-based violence during the 16 Days of Activism against women initiative held in the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality.

Mayor Nxumalo expressed that it was in the hands of every citizen of this country to make a meaningful contribution towards ongoing efforts to combat violence against women and children.

He also added that by roping in the youth through sport, the initiative was a method to encourage young people and every sexually active citizen to

make the right choice when choosing to engage in sex starting by correctly using condoms in the fight to reduce HIV new infections.

This event aimed to educate and promote awareness around the issues of violent acts against women and children, as well as ways that help to eradicate the increasing HIV and AIDS infections. MEC Hlomuka led a peace walk on gender-based violence outside Khiliva Community Hall before addressing the local community of ward 22.

In commemorating World Aids Day, candles were lit in remembrance of those infected and affected as well as those who have passed on due to complications related to this dreaded disease. Community members received gifts from the Department which included sewing machines, agricultural and sport equipment.

NXAKANXAKA BACK TO WINNING WAYS AT HARRY GWALA SUMMER CUP



The Harry Gwala Summer Cup, keeps on growing each year. With races getting better and competition even harder. It was a beautiful and bright event attended by the local people, visitors.

THE Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in KwaZulu-Natal conveyed much deserved accolades to the community of Emakhuzeni and surrounding areas, near Underberg and all who contributed to the success of this year's Harry Gwala Summer Cup traditional horse racing event held recently.

The event hosted at the Edazini Horse Racing featured 10 hotly contested races - including two female contests, a fashion show and live music by local and established artists.

The race day saw thousands of people from different areas packing the venue.

The event was organised by the Department, in collaboration with KZN Traditional Horse Racing Association, Harry Gwala District Municipality and the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality as well as other notable sponsors.

In the main Grade 1 race the favourite horse Nxakanxaka from Amajuba District lived up to expectations when he took first position taking home the R20 000 first prize money. His usual rival Troublemaker, also from Amajuba District came second and lesser known Umdladlambe from the King Cetshwayo District came third. Nxakanxaka won the 2022 Dundee July but came in fifth position last year in the same race.

Ironically Nxakanxaka's new jockey Sphamandla Vilakazi said he had started training with horses only a few days before the race.

"What has happened is something I have always wanted to achieve. I am now looking forward to making a name for in the 2024 Dundee July," said an elated Vilakazi.

The ladies' race was won by Mfene Ziyavova ridden by Nolwazi Thabethe from the Umgungundlovu District followed by the horse named Big Nuz from the eThekweni Metro and Inkinga ridden by Nokubonga Gamede from Zululand District came in third place

The winning horse in all the races were as follows:

- Race 1 Grade 7 - Ntombeziningi (R7000)
- Race 2 Grade 6 - Covid (R7000)
- Race 3 Grade 5 - MaThousand (R9000)
- Race 4 Grade 4 - Dubula Mbayimbayi (R10 000)
- Race 5 Grade 3 - Mfene Ziyavova (R10 000) - Ladies
- Race 6 Grade 2 - Izinkulumo (R7000)
- Race 7 Grade 3 - Umzinyathi (R12 000)
- Race 8 Grade 2 - Impendulo (R15 000)
- Race 9 Grade 2 - Nyazangoma (R15 000)
- Race 10 Grade 1 - Nxakanxaka (R20 000)



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