



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

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THE GREENEST MUNICIPALITY COMPETITION (GMC) FOR THE YEAR 2014/ 2015

BACKGROUND

The Greenest Municipality Competition was initiated in 2001, started as Cleanest Municipality Competition with a primary focus in implementing the National Waste Management Strategy. Then the key elements were reducing, recycling and reusing waste materials. The incorporation of new elements in Cleanest municipality outside the waste management category led to changing of the name to Greenest Municipality competition. The Greenest Municipality competition then provided a broader focus which linked to global and national initiatives such as green goal, greening the Nation, reducing greenhouse gases to mention a few.

PURPOSE

The rationale for the GMC needs to address environmental protection, social upliftment and economic growth rather than mere environmental focus, through Sustainable Development Dimensions such as follows:

- Economic growth
- Energy efficiency
- Sound waste management

- Water quality
- Climate change abatement
- Improved nutrition
- Access to employment, etc.

CATEGORIES /ELEMENTS OF GMC

1. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management is the process of sorting, collecting, transporting, processing, re-using, recycling and disposal of waste materials by landfilling.

2. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Energy efficiency refers to systems and products designed to use less energy for the same or higher performance than regular products or systems. Examples are the use of green buildings and solar system.

3. WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

This refers to reducing use of fresh water through technological and social methods. The above include activities such as Water audits, repair of leaking taps and pipes, re-use of grey water to water plants and awareness campaigns.

4. LANDSCAPPING, TREE PLANTING AND BEAUTIFICATION

The activities contribute to carbon off-setting by the initiatives such as greening the nation, tree planting in townships and in RDP housing and supporting nurseries.

Planting of trees reduce the rate of global warming.

5. PUBILC PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The process involves the active involvement of the general public in development and decision making regarding issues that affect or may affect them. The municipalities should show they involve their communities through:

- Access to information
- Participating in decision making processes
- Access to environmental justice.

6. LEADERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This involves elements such as policies, vision and mission which translate to strategies and plans to achieve greening objectives.

WINNERS FOR THE 2014/2015 GREENEST MUNICIPALITY COMPETITION:

- ❖ **Waste Management: Umzimkulu local Municipality**
- ❖ **Energy efficiency and Conservation: Greater Kokstad Local Municipality**
- ❖ **Landscapping, Tree planting and Beautification: Ubuhlebezwe**
- ❖ **Public Participation and Community participation: Kwa-Sani**
- ❖ **Leadership and Institutional Arrangements: Ubuhlebezwe**
- ❖ **Overall GMC Winner: Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality**

(Photos are available from Communications Section)

CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED IN UMZIMKULU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

BACKGROUND

As means to assist our Local Municipalities with cleanliness at least one clean-up campaign is conducted per quarter to ensure proper refuse storage, collection, transportation, transfer and processing, material recovery, and final disposal. Waste Management also includes auditing of waste management systems and adherence to the “cradle-to-grave” approach.

DISCUSSIONS

On the 29th of November 2014 Harry Gwala District Municipality in collaboration with Umzimkulu Local Municipality, Government Departments and NGOs conducted Clean-up Campaigns at Ibisi and Rietvlei Locations in Umzimkulu.

These campaigns were combined with the commemoration of the 16 days of Activism Against Women and Child Abuse.

The main event that was held in Rietvlei Community Hall where speeches from various stakeholders, including Harry Gwala District Municipality Councillors and Umzimkulu Local Municipality Councillors.

On this occasion the Guest Speaker was the honourable Deputy Mayor from Harry Gwala DM, Councillor Duma. Also available on this occasion were the Nzo family representatives, Mabuntana family and Sogoni family who are all stalwarts who dedicated their time in the upliftment of the lives of the people of Umzimkulu and South Africa. Some of the Delegates were from the African National Congress which is the ruling party in South Africa and in Harry Gwala District.

(Photos are available from Communications Section)