



Volume 3 | Issue 3

2024

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



 Harry Gwala District Municipality  @harrygwala  @harrygwala  www.harrygwalamunicipality.gov.za

“Together we Deliver and Grow”





VISION | MISSION | VALUES



Vision

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

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



Values

- Transparency
- Consultation
- Honesty
- Accountability
- Commitment



Table of CONTENTS

1.	Vision, Mission and Values.....	2
2.	Editorial Note.....	4
	• The New Era of Government	
3.	HGDM Mayor’s Foreword.....	5-6
	• Citizens Must Play their Part in Safeguarding the Investment in Infrastructure	
4.	Foreword by HGDM Municipal Manager	7-8
	• Municipalities Must Act Without Fear or Favour Against Those Seeking to Disrepute the District	
5.	Harry Gwala Municipality Executive Council.....	9-10
6.	Water Statement by Harry Gwala District Water Services Department.....	11-12
	• Water Services Awareness Programs	
7.	The Harry Gwala District Municipality Hosts Successful Water Indaba	13
8.	Plans to Find Permanent Solutions to Water Challenges on the Cards	14-15
9.	Harry Gwala Moves Towards Ensuring Water Supply in the Entire District	16
10.	KZN Provincial Government Takes a Step Towards Commercialising Wool Production, an Industry Serving as an Important Catalyst for Rural Economies.....	17
11.	HGDM Council Meeting in Pictures.....	18-19
12.	Nelson Mandela Day Celebrated in the Harry Gwala District.....	20
13.	Women Celebration Event.....	21
14.	Mayor Zamo Nxumalo Celebrated Women’s Month with the Female Councillors During the Eighth Edition of the Harry Gwala District Municipality Council Meeting	22
15.	Cllr Dlamini Passionate About Service Delivery.....	23-24
16.	Meet our new Deputy Chief Financial Officer.....	24
17.	The Senior Manager for Operations and Maintenance is a Motivated Individual with Strong Drive for Excellence.....	25
18.	HGDM Truck-Driver Enjoys Her Job More than Anything.....	26
19.	Hard Work and Dedication is the Key to Success.....	27
20.	Meet the EPWP Coordinator.....	28
21.	Expo for Young Scientists.....	29
22.	Harry Gwala Mourns the Passing of a Colleague.....	30
23.	Gifts for Umzimkhulu Flood Victims.....	31
24.	Harry Gwala District Municipality July 2024 Disaster Report.....	32-33
25.	Umngeni - Uthukela Annual Sport Tournament.....	34-35
26.	HGDM Contact Details.....	36





Editorial Note

THE NEW ERA OF GOVERNMENT

It is with great excitement and warmth to welcome you to our publication for the financial year 24/25. We thank you for your continuous support. This newsletter is issued quarterly to keep all our stakeholders informed of the progress made by the on-service delivery.

We are pleased to report a successful and beneficial chain of interactions once again that we have had with different stakeholders, from the national government to provincial government departments and our sister municipalities.

We are meeting on this platform wherein there has been a paradigm shift in the political landscape in South Africa. The government of the National Unit (GNU) was formed in the past few months due to the failure of political parties to win the elections outright. The election results of May 29, 2024, gave birth to the GNU which has ushered into a new era wherein as government practitioners we have the new mandate of operating in a united national government and coalition government in local in the local sphere. The expectation is that all government communicators must embrace the formation of the GNU. As public servants' communication practitioners are expected to work independently from politics although they are political communicators.



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza | Communications Manager

Harry Gwala District Municipality has recently embraced and supported a local economic development program led by the Office of the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Premier of KwaZulu-Natal Mr. Thami Ntuli and Thembeni Madlopha accompanied by the district leadership including UMzimbkhulu Mayor Cllr. Jabu Msiya-Mzizi, District Speaker Cllr. Sibongiseni Mdunge and others.

We have hosted the District Communicators Forum at Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality to deliberate on matters of communication. Among the issues that were discussed was the integrated communication approach that shall be followed by all of us as communicators of the municipalities.

In the spirit of promoting healthy living, creating, and maintaining relations, and boosting work morale, team Harry Gwala took part in the Umgeni-Uthukela Sports Tournament which was held in Pinetown.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome our new employees in the Communications Unit, Miss Ath'enkosi Baqwa, Miss Xoliswa Dlamini and Miss Fundisile Qoza.



Ms Nontuthuzela Ngubane
Public Relations Officer (PRO)



Mr Lindokuhle Chiliza:
Assistant Director:
Regional Communication
Coordinator (GCIS)



Ms Ath'enkosi Baqwa:
Communications Intern



Ms Xoliswa Dlamini:
EPWP Communications
Assistant



Ms Fundisile Qoza:
EPWP Communications
Assistant





HGDM Mayor's Foreword

Citizens Must Play their Part in Safeguarding the Investment in Infrastructure

I am humble and indeed respectful for the opportunity to correspond with all the citizens of our District once more through this official mouthpiece.

This is a platform for us to outline the highlights of our Municipality's achievements, plans as well as report back on any hindrances to our commitment of delivering water and sanitation across the length and the breadth of our region.

Harry Gwala moves towards ensuring water supply in the entire district

The Harry Gwala District Municipality's major water projects are drawing closer to finalization as most are sitting at 95% completion, moving the Municipality from its previous 55% water supply in the entire District to 65%.

We have managed this to relentlessly improving our planning and sticking to our timelines and where there were insurmountable challenges, we engaged with our citizens to resolve on tangible methods to implement our planned projects.

The projects that are ongoing and on the cusp of completion include:

> Mnqumeni project.

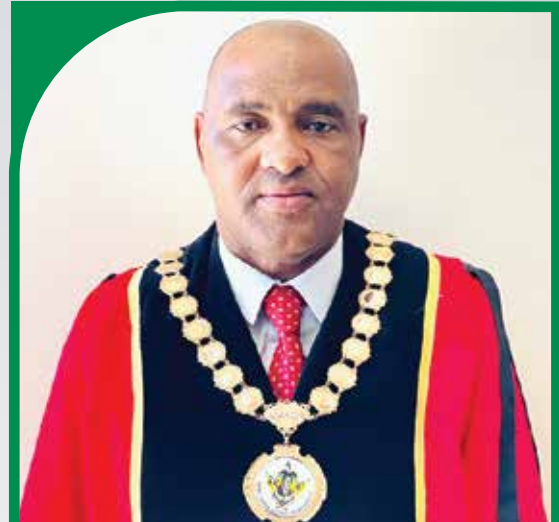
The project will unchain a challenge of the lack of water in 14 villages as even the water infrastructure has already been resuscitated.

> Ibisi sanitation project.

This project sits at 95% completion status and once it is done it is expected to connect all targeted households and is set to have flushing toilets upon completion as well.

> KwaMeyi project.

Admittedly this project faced several challenges.



His Worship the District Mayor:
Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

The good news is that we have overcome the challenges, and the completion of the project is expected in October of this year.

>The Greater Summerfield project.

This is another project expected to be completed soon and the completion date has been set for the month of September.

> Fairview Project.

This project is completed already.

>Kempsdale Dam project.

A service provider has been appointed for this project and they will start with the pumpstation as the District is still waiting for the license approval from the Department of Water and Sanitation in the part of raising the dam wall.





This is one of the District's major projects where we will expand the dam and raise the dam wall from four to 7.8 meters up. It is meant to address the water demand in Kokstad for many years to come.

Women's Month

Every year, in the month of August, our country celebrates Women's Month. This is an important month in the year for us as we pay tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956, in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women.

The month of August provides us with a definite opportunity to celebrate the flowers of our nation.

This year's Women's Month commemoration was held under the theme: "Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy Towards Women's Development" marks the 68th anniversary of the historic march.

The commemoration around Women's Month also permits us to reflect on the strides our country has taken to empower women and provides us with the opportunity to mobilise and strategies on all that is required to ensure that women are further empowered to take their rightful place in society across all platforms.

To all women, allow me to thank you and to pay homage to your strengths and resilience and I urge that you all empower one another.

To all women, allow me to thank you and to pay homage to your strengths and resilience and I urge that you all empower one another.



Let us be vigilant

Allow me to urge and please indulge me in my request. Over the past years and recently as well we have experienced unpredictable and inclement weather that has caused damages along the way. I urge that we all become vigilant. When the weather cautions are issued, let us please play our part in ensuring that we are safe, and that we minimise the impact of damage to our properties. This I urge should be done through adhering to the tips from our Disaster Management Unit and the authenticated stakeholders.

As I conclude, it would be remiss of me to not advocate for improvements in revenue generation by the District. Our Finance Department has embarked on various campaigns to encourage our citizens to honour paying for services and to play their part in reporting water leaks, sewer spillages and vandalism as well as destruction to our infrastructure.

The District has invested and will continue to pour millions of Rands towards developmental infrastructure and this is done through utilising taxpayers' money. As citizens we must ensure that our infrastructure is safe in our communities and I encourage that our citizens must play their part in safeguarding the investments in infrastructure meant to improve their lives.

I thank you.





HGDM Municipal Manager
Foreword

Municipalities Must Act Without Fear or Favour Against Those Seeking to Disrepute the District Image



Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke:
Municipal Manager

Allow me to greet all the citizens of the Harry Gwala District Municipality across all the sister local municipalities in the name of equitable, balanced, enhanced, and tailor-made service delivery. This column is part of the edition of the district’s newsletter in the first quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year. As the Accounting Officer I am inclined to touch, albeit briefly but hopefully significantly on the following topics, leadership, ethics and accountability.

Leadership

White Paper on Local Government makes provision for leadership as one of the four characteristics of developmental local government. In the local government sphere, effective leadership is a critical ingredient not only to

achieve developmental goals, especially in municipalities such as ours, which is predominantly rural, but the organisational success which is premised on the synergistic manner of undertaking the tasks as outlined in the various legislations that govern our sphere.

Leadership therefore is crucial and does not only provide a direction to teams that form the administration, but it also provides a conducive and collaborative work environment, with open communication, embracing of creativity and leaning towards staff motivation and achieving high morale amongst the employees. The municipality comprises multiple teams working to achieve different goals and objectives but towards once inclusive vision and mission. Importantly each department within the municipality has individuals with varied experiences and competencies which have to be orchestrated

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



Chief Financial Officer:
Mr. Khulani Mthembeni
Brian Mzimela



Social Services and Development Planning:
Ms Ntombifuthi Nomvuselelo
Fortunate Buthelezi



Infrastructure Services:
Mr. Nkululeko Biyase



Corporate Services:
Mrs. Thobile Thelma
Thiyane-Magaqa



Water Services:
Mr. Lindumusa Gwala





towards delivering the desired outcomes.

That is why it is key for the Management Committee to ensure that the roadmap set out for the implementation of service delivery throughout our district is well-planned, adequately resourced and monitored. Central to this is the morale of staff and their buy-in; in implementing the vision as set out by the administration leadership and the political leadership

Ethics

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa visualizes and enshrines that local government is a sphere of government that is democratic and accountable and ensures the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.

In the processes of undertaking the tasks of implementing water and sanitation projects and programmes as the district, we must do so in an ethical manner.

This must be inclusive of integrity, good governance, openness, transparency and unquestionable enthusiasm towards improving the lives of the citizens we serve. To drive the point further, there are policies, legislations, circulars and guidelines on how officials and Councillors should conduct themselves when discharging their tasks.

There is a code of conduct tailor-made for Councillors as is a code of conduct tailor-made as well for officials. These and other guidelines such as the national anti-corruption strategy, compel us to work in a manner devoid of corrupt activities and tendencies and that we are called upon to be ethical in our work. The relevant legislations on this matter go beyond just wishing for ethical conduct from officials and Councillors, but places and sets that leaders must have values and principles for ethical governance in Municipalities must act without fear or favour against those seeking to disrepute the district's image.

Accountability

The last sentence on the previous sub-topic calls on leaders to be accountable.



Accountability is a hallmark of modern democratic governance, and it remains the blueprint of routine work if those in power are not held accountable for their act and omissions of their decisions, their policies and their expenditures. Accountability serves as a watchdog in terms of the integrity of public governance where corruption elements like nepotism, abuse of power and other forms of maladministration are monitored closely. When our officials and Councillors are accountable for their tasks and are ethical in their conduct and provide leadership at all times, the entire image of the District Municipality is improved, the citizens highly benefit as the officials have increased productivity, creativity and synergistic teamwork and their commitment to their tasks which leads to a culture of high performing officials and Councillors.

Conclusion

All the above sub-topics are fundamental in our success once more in 2024/2025 as we once more edge forward addressing and overcoming our challenges, impediments and shortcomings as a unit dedicated to improving the lives of our citizens and developing our region to ring true the vision that we have set out for ourselves.

I thank you.



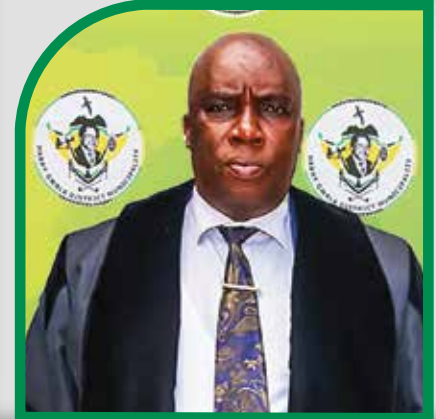
HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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



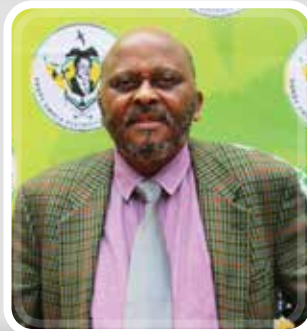
**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
CLLR. Z.D. NXUMALO**



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



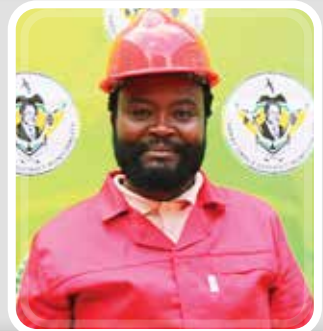
**HONORABLE CHIEF-WHIP
CLLR. N. MHATU**



**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. MTHALI



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. MARNCE



CLLR. B. SIBENI

INKOSI V.V. ZIMEMA



TRADITIONAL LEADERS



INKOSI M.S.I. ZULU





Water Statement by Harry Gwala District Water Services Department

Water Services Awareness Programs

Harry Gwala District Municipality's Customer Care has ongoing awareness programs targeting the public and learners. The content and themes of campaigns are reviewed to assess suitability and address current issues facing that community. Content targeted includes water conservation, health and hygiene, vandalism of water infrastructure, and sewer spillages. Below are awareness campaigns that are conducted by the Customer Care to educate communities and learners within Harry Gwala District Municipality.

- Water conservation

Water conservation awareness campaigns are aimed at raising awareness to everyone in the society about the importance of saving water in order to cope with its scarcity and ensure sustainability. The objective is to change citizens attitude and behaviour to advance in water use efficiency. Raising water conservation awareness is essential as the combined impact of even small improvements at individual household use can amount to significant savings in the HGDM jurisdiction. Residents are also encouraged to repair leaks inside their properties.

Increasing water use efficiency and ensuring freshwater supply is equally important in ensuring that everyone benefits from the role of



HGDM (provisioning of water and sanitation). It is mandatory to use water efficiently across all sectors within the HGDM in order to address water scarcity and reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity. People of Harry Gwala District Municipality are encouraged to practice rainwater harvesting.

- Sanitation, health, and hygiene

Hygiene awareness has become a core priority of the municipality to minimise the risk of sanitation-related health issues in communities. This awareness is aimed at addressing basic hygiene behaviours at a household level and community at large, including proper disposal of human waste, hand-washing practices, and proper use of VIP toilets constructed and completed with hand-washing facilities. It has become a norm that most of water contamination happens at household level, thus use of unclean water receptacles and un-hygienic handling of clean drinking water hence the initiative to raise awareness on health and hygiene practices. Reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing untreated wastewater that gets disposed into the natural environment posing risk to the water bodies/ catchment also contributes towards good hygiene and clean drinking water.

- Vandalism and theft

This derives from the deliberate destruction of municipal water infrastructure or theft of water pipes, Eskom cables, water taps, pumps, and other infrastructure. This destruction places a heavy burden on the municipality's limited budget to provide water services. The financial obligation is immense due to spending the limited budget allocated for Maintenance and operations on repairing and replacement of the vandalised/ stolen water services infrastructure. Residents and communities at large are encouraged to take



ownership of their water schemes and infrastructure in order to continue accessing water and sanitation services. Residents and communities are hereby urged to report vandalism and theft of water services infrastructure to Customer Care Call Center line or to SAPS.

- Unauthorised connections

Illegal and unauthorised connections worsens the problem of leaking pipes and result in unauthorised and unaccounted water consumption. These illegal connections also make it difficult for the municipality to provide sustainable water services.

Residents are urged to report illegal connections and to refrain from tampering with the municipal infrastructure.

Those who have indicated that they want individual household connections and they are willing to pay for municipal services are urged to contact HGDM Call Center to enquire further on the processes to be followed.

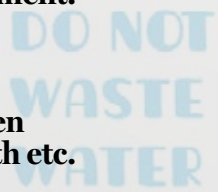
- Revenue enhancement and smart meter activation

HGDM Customer Care Unit is also responsible for public awareness on the activation of the smart prepared meters. Awareness campaigns and consultations are conducted to raise awareness on the benefits of the smart meter installation and activation project and also to ensure the acceptability of the concept. Communities and residents are urged to attend these awareness campaigns as they give an insight on the project.

NB:

- **Be a steward of your own water services infrastructure and support the initiative towards improving water and sanitation management.**
- **Don't overuse water.**
- **Make sure you close a tap when washing dishes, brushing teeth etc.**
- **Take short showers**
- **Be a prepaid meter user so as to track your water usage.**
- **Organize a clean up project for rivers and oceans. Engage your whole community to clean up a local river, seaside or an ocean.**

- Customer Care Line: **086 010 3651**
- Customer Care Whatsapp: **060 570 6193**
- Police: **10111**





THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL WATER INDABA



The Harry Gwala District office of the Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, hosted a successful Water Indaba session, at uBuhlebezwe Municipality council chamber in IXopo, recently.

The indaba was to appraise stakeholders on the challenges faced in the provisioning of water and sanitation services by the District as well as the interventions being undertaken to address these challenges. The Water Indaba was attended by the Greater Kokstad Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Lwando Madikizela, uMzimkhulu Municipality Mayor Cllr Jabu Msiya-Mzizi, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality Mayor Cllr Sindisiwe Msomi, Councillors in the district, the District Municipal Manager Mr. Gamakulu Sineke with all his directors and District team dealing with water and sanitation. Also present was the Municipal Manager for the Greater Kokstad Municipality Mr. Siphso Zwane.

Mayor Nxumalo led the Water Indaba,

with his executive team including the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Nosisa Jojozi, Speaker Cllr. Sibongiseni Mdunge, Chief Whip Cllr Noluthando Mhathu, chairperson for water services committee Cllr. Simphiwe Bekwa. Mayor Nxumalo in his address said Councillors need to be innovative in solving service delivery issues in municipalities. “We need to be innovative as Councillors in solving services delivery issues, especially on water and sanitation in the District. People expect a lot from Councillors, we must be able to provide visible solutions to problems faced by communities,” said Nxumalo. Mayor Nxumalo emphasized the importance of ensuring that water problems are communicated to the community before complainants are received from the public. “As the District and Councillors, we need to be the first ones to disseminate information or knowledge that there are water challenges, how long it will take and what is the solution,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

A presentation by the District looked at all Water Services and Water Resources programs to provide strategic interventions that will fast track providing communities with water. Providing a strategic directive during the Indaba, Councillors had questions and possible solutions to their own wards. The stakeholders in attendance appreciated the nature of the meeting where water issues were dealt with in detail. The Mayor extended appreciation to stakeholders who attended and participated in the session.



Plans to find permanent solutions to water challenges on the cards

A sum of R 241 million has been set aside in this current financial year to deal head-on with challenges that may emerge and to complete major water schemes



**Water Services Executive Director:
Mr. Lindumusa Gwala**

Plans to find a permanent solution to water challenges that arise from time to time in the Harry Gwala District Municipality are on the cards as R241 million has been apportioned to overcome them, with some of the funds allocated towards the major water projects nearing completion.

This is in the wake of a one-on-one interview with the Executive Director for Water Services in the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Mr Lindumusa Gwala with the Municipality's Communication Team led by its Manager, Mr Ndabezitha Tenza.

The purpose was to unpack critical matters, plans and strides towards reaching one goal of providing "clean water for all", which means service delivery to all intended beneficiaries.

Speaking to the Harry Gwala Newsletter, Mr Gwala revealed that the Harry Gwala District Municipality is classified as rural Municipality, highly dependent on grants funding.

He said this is due to a poor revenue base prompted by high unemployment rate unlike in urban areas where people could afford paying for municipal services.

He added that there are water schemes and reservoirs that are being built to supply water to rural communities, with millions of rands invested but generating no income whilst there are also permanent personnel responsible for water treatment that require to be remunerated for the maintenance and repairs of the water infrastructure.

Mr Gwala added that this is part of the reasons they opt to build and invest where the Municipality will be able to generate income, but they cannot deviate delivering on their mandate to ensure clean water in rural areas.



"This year's Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) is R 241 million, but we have already received R 230 million," he said. He also revealed that there is also another R 100 million grant called WSIG (Water Service Infrastructure Grant). This is a grant meant to attend to short term challenges in the provision of water, which is regarded as an interventional grant meant for the needy and for emergency purposes such as boreholes for the people to get water.



Herewith the following planned MIG projects Mr Gwala outlined for the current financial year: -

Umzimkhulu Sewers, uMnqumeni Water Supply Scheme, Mabona water Supply Scheme, Greater Summerfield, Highflats water supply scheme, Ncakubana water supply scheme, Greater MaNdlovu water supply scheme, KwaMay Water Supply scheme, Khukhulela water supply scheme, Mdakeni Hopewell stanger, Don-dush, Santombe village sewer, Blome village, Ibis housing sewer project and Mathathane village. There is also rectification of sewer project in Horseshoe.

Furthermore, the R 100 million WSIG grant is earmarked for Mkhohlwa Mdayeni Water Supply to the value of R16.9 million, Machunwini Water Supply Scheme to the value of R 15.7 million, refurbishment and upgrade of Bhongweni infrastructure estimated at value of R 35 million and R 30 million for Shayamoya. Mr Gwala revealed that the internal grants for maintenance and repairs are budgeted at R 54 million while at the same time CoGTA has recently approved R 60 million business plan to reprioritise the MIG funding.

CHALLENGES

Mr Gwala revealed that some challenges facing the Municipality include the shortage of vehicles as some are old and are always experiencing mechanical problems. He added other challenges include unauthorised connection, vandalism and theft.

“However, we continue to conduct awareness campaigns in this regard to caution communities to protect the municipal infrastructure and to report those who might be perpetrators of vandalism and theft,” Mr Gwala said.

He said the Municipality has fleet in his department, which includes 35 bakkies, 14 water trucks, six sewer trucks and three TLBs. He said they are looking at buying another TLB to be allocated in four Municipalities under the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

He said the dirty water that sometimes come out from taps is cause by maintenance,

which is required from time to time through aging infrastructure. “We have developed a business plan, which has already been submitted to CoGTA in this regard to source funding intended to deal with aging infrastructure” he said. He added that another challenge includes non-revenue water.

PREPAID WATER METER INSTALATION

The prepaid meter programme is in response to the previously mentioned challenge of poor revenue base since the Harry Gwala District-Municipality is a rural Municipality marred by high unemployment rate while the Municipality invests more than R 300 million in rural water projects that generate no income.



The Municipality has followed its principle that has always been preached by its Chief Financial Officer, Khulani Mthembeni Brain Mzimela of investing where they could generate income.

It is for this reason the Harry Gwala District Municipality has opted to undergo a prepaid meter programme, which will prevent or reduce non-revenue water and other challenges.

Mr Gwala revealed that their plan for the entire District is to install prepaid water meters to 20 000 households. “But, in Kokstad alone we are expected to install about 13 700 and there is only 2000 prepaid meters that have already been successfully installed,” Mr Gwala said.

He said the programme is at an initiation stage and is targeting urban areas for now, where people could afford paying for services. “This is intended to boost our revenue,” he said. Mr Gwala has advised that people with water challenges in their areas should report them to ward councillors.



Harry Gwala moves towards ensuring water supply in the entire district

The Harry Gwala District Municipality's major water projects are drawing closer to finalization as most are sitting at 95% completion, moving the Municipality from its previous 55% water supply in the entire District to 65%.

This is according to the Municipality Executive Director for Infrastructure Services, Mr Nkululeko Biyase, who recently revealed that the Municipality has managed to successfully crack-down on challenges that were inherited during the constructing these projects.

The projects include Mqumeni Project, which is currently in a stage of abstraction works while simultaneously in the process of upgrading water treatment plant. The project is currently in a commissioning stage where its employees have been trained on water treatment courses. The project will unchain a challenge of the lack of water in 14 villages as even the water infrastructure has already been resuscitated.

The status of the Ibisi sanitation project that is in line with sewer connections is at 95% complete as it is expected to connect all households and is set to have flushing toilets upon completion.

KwaMeyi project, which had numerous challenges of service providers that were not capable enough to complete the project resulting in them having to be replaced is also closer to completion as it is expected to be completed in October of 2024. Mr Biyase revealed the project has had its own historic challenges, which resulted to water pipes bursts during connection.

The Greater Summerfield project is another project expected to be completed soon and the completion date has been set for the month of September. "We are currently busy with

Infrastructure Services Executive Director:
Mr. Nkululeko Biyase (third from left)



abstraction works as well as the rising main and the reservoir," said Mr Biyase.

He added the Fairview Project is completed already after having inherit sewer challenges. He said under the uMzimkhulu Municipality there are two Sewer Projects being undertaken which include installation of sewer lines, a pump station and the rising main. "With this, sewer spillages will be a thing of the past in uMzimkhulu once completed," he said.

With regards to the Horseshoe sanitation project the District has managed to connect 634 households that now have flushing toilets. "The project is more than 10 years in the works and some households have not yet been connected," Mr Biyase said.

He revealed that the Creighton water supply scheme project, includes upgrading water system to be capable enough to supply water to areas like Centocow as the water treatment plant has also been upgraded from one to five megalitres.

He said they are trying to get rid of stand-alone schemes, upgrading them to regional schemes supplying water in bulks not in a form of a boreholes.

He added that a contractor has also been appointed for the Kempsdale Dam project in Kokstad, but they will start with the pumpstation as they are still waiting for the license approval from the Department of Water and Sanitation in the part of raising the dam wall.

This is one of the District's major projects where they will expand the dam and raise the dam wall from four to 7.8 meters up. It is meant to address the water demand in Kokstad for many years to come.

KZN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TAKES A STEP TOWARDS COMMERCIALISING WOOL PRODUCTION, AN INDUSTRY SERVING AS AN IMPORTANT CATALYST FOR RURAL ECONOMIES

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thami Ntuli presided over the wool improvement programme and the handing over of rams and farming infrastructure to livestock associations from Umzimkhulu Local Municipality, which is under the Harry Gwala District Municipality.



The Premier was accompanied by MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, local leadership including UMzimkhulu Mayor, Jabu Msiya-Mzizi,

the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Sibongiseni Mdunge and traditional leadership.

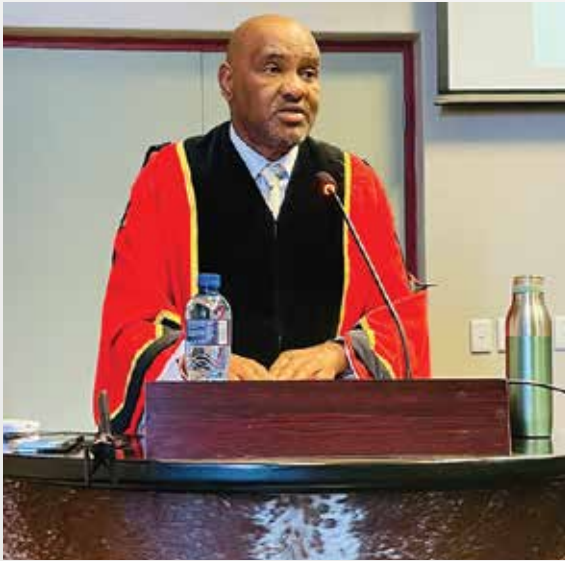
The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government visited this area as part of empowering emerging wool producers within the province through the supply of Done Merino breeding rams to provincial Wool.

The Premier together with the MEC, handed over the rams to 14 associations within the District. In addition, some of these associations also received shearing infrastructure and fencing. MEC Ka Madlopha-Mthethwa emphasized that economic growth remains the most powerful instrument for poverty reduction. Therefore, the department would diligently intensify efforts to stimulate growth of rural economies through the provision of resources to farmers.

“Our greatest responsibility is to alleviate poverty by confronting unemployment and inequality. Therefore, this particular programme will enable our farmers to grow within the industry while uplifting rural economies,” said MEC Madlopha-Mthethwa.

The Premier and the MEC started the day by visiting the newly constructed Ngudwini dip tank which has created jobs.

Speaker Mdunge speaking at the event, appreciated the well needed assisted by provincial government, he said the District strives on working with local farmers in assisting them commercially. He asked the Premier and MEC to ensure that necessary infrastructure and market assistance is provided to local farmers to help them grow.



The Harry Gwala District Municipality had a council meeting at the district main office in Ixopo. A Council meeting is the principal decision-making structure in the Local sphere of government. Local government sets its own policies, adopts corporate plans, approves and adopts the Municipal budget.







NELSON MANDELA DAY

Celebrated in the Harry Gwala District

In Celebrating Mandela Day, the Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, together with UBuhlebezwe Local Mayor Cllr. E.B Ngubo, spent the day at the Christ The King Hospital in IXopo. The Mayors were joined by the Municipal Managers and employees from both the municipalities, along with members of the SAPS, Correctional Services as well as employees from the hospital and community members. During the visit the Mayors cleaned and painted part of the hospital, visited the post-natal ward to meet mothers and their newborns, handed over new clothes to them.

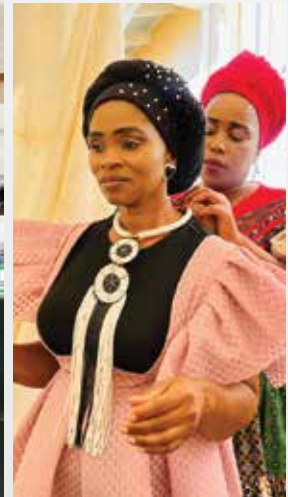
The initiative was part of the Mandela Day commemorations which is an annual global celebration that takes place on the 18th of July to honour the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. Mayor Nxumalo during said it was necessary to honour Mandela and his legacy working with the community.

“We are here today to remember the good that Mandela stood for, we decided to take a day out of the office and be here at the hospital to paint and clean for patients to show that we care for them. We also like to encourage others to take 67 minutes in they day and do a good deed for the community they stay in. We want this to be an annual initiative,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The day was a call to action for individuals, organisations and communities to take time and reflect on Mandela’s values, principles and to make a positive impact in the community they serve.

Mayor Nxumalo motivated the Harry Gwala community to make sure that they pay special attention to this period and make sure they make a positive impact, even if it means cleaning a yard for old people in the area or doing some chores for them.





Women Celebration Event

The Harry Gwala District Municipality together with different government Department and stakeholders held a women’s month commemoration programme at Bulwer Community hall under Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality. The event was under entrepreneurship theme.

Women in attendance are given information on how to start a business, marketing their business and product. There was also opportunity to sell their product in a flea market which is part of this event. Women from all walks of life are gathered to celebrate and empower each other as August is women’s months.





Mayor Zamo Nxumalo CELEBRATED WOMEN'S MONTH with the female councillors during the eighth edition of the Harry Gwala District Municipality council meeting.



He said their strength, dedication is inspiring to all women in the district. The female councillors were dressed up in hat and heels to celebrate their month





Cllr Passionate About Service Delivery

Zimbili Precious Dlamini, joined the Harry Gwala District Municipality (HDGM) as Councilor in November 2021. On the 8th of December 2021 she was elected by the council to the chairperson of the women's caucus which is now known as women's commission.

It did not take her long to impart, as per of her task, a programme meant to uplift families while working as a Councillor. Previously and currently Zimbili has been working at **Family Literacy Project**, as a project coordinator. She started working immediately after she finished Grade 12.

Family literacy project is a project that deals with adult and children literacy. The project helps to prepare kids before they go to school, such as providing parents and grandparents with skills on how to prepare their children before they go to school and during their school time.

She is a Coordinator now, but she started as a facilitator where they trained targeted audiences in adult literacy and trained them on how to help their kids. As the programme is expanding, Zimbili became a trainer within and outside the project in 2014/15. Zimbili was a trainer in Early Childhood Development (ECD) in partnership with Family Literacy Project and public works through CWP program where she worked with the Dr NDZ and uBuhlebezwe municipalities where she trained CWP participants who were placed in ECD centers who were women.

In **Family Literacy Project** as a trainer, in 2020/2021 she was responsible for training within and outside the organization where they were doing **Classroom Library**, which was the training and establishment of classroom libraries under the Dr NDZ Municipality in wards 4,5,6 and 8 in 20 primary school and at the uBuhlebezwe Municipality, namely Mazongo, Matulela and Skeyi Primary Schools, This was the partnership with Wits University.

So, empowerment becomes her passion, currently Zimbili is also a liaison coordinator with



Cllr Zimbili Precious Dlamini

the **Isibani Sezwe Creche Association**, she supports creche practitioners to establish, run and educates them, support them even in accessing funding which includes lobbying with relevant stakeholders and with relevant government departments, even funders worldwide.

Her passion of working with people is something that she was born with as she was raised by her parents whose background narrates that many people in her family were leaders. When she was in high school, she joined the women's groups in the community. She joined Women's Leadership And Training Project And Centocow Leadership Training Group where they were groomed to become women leaders and this is when she was involved in politics.

In the year 1996 she joined the African National Congress (ANC). In 2005 she joined the ANCYL as part of preparation of the 1st youth league regional conference. In 2005 she was elected secretary of the ANCYL of the branch which was Centocow branch Ingwe sub region. In 2006 she was elected ANCYL Ingwe sub region chairperson. In 2006 2nd regional conference at Sani Pass hotel, she



was elected as an ANCYL additional member. In 2008 REC ANCYL additional member and sub regional convener. In 2014 she was elected deputy chairperson of the Mandlakayise Dlamini branch, in 2015 she was elected as secretary of the branch and 2017 branch chairperson in the same Mandlakayise Dlamini branch. In 2019 was elected deputy secretary of DR NDZ sub region. In the year 2021 elected deputy secretary of the branch. During the elections she was the VCM (Volunteer Community Mobilizer) coordinator at Dr NDZ sub region in 2019, 20, and in 2024 elections.

As the chairperson of women's commission, she wishes to empower herself as a leader within the municipality, to empower women in the district in various aspects more especially in leadership, business and in other activities that affect or touches women's social issues. Lastly to encourage all women in the institution Zimbili seeks to provide empowerment to women and to others, to create a safe space/ platform that speak to their every challenges especially at workplace. Zimbili has a fiancé, and she is the mother of two handsome boys, a loving person who loves to work with people.

Meet our new Deputy Chief Financial Officer

The Harry District Municipality has recently appointed Mrs Slindile Mkhize-Zitha to the position of Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

Born and raised in a rural village at Ulundi, Mahlabathini and matriculated from Vukuza High School also in the Mahlabathini, Mkhize-Zitha completed a Bachelor of Accounting Science Degree, and further completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting Science.

She is a qualified Chartered Accountant that started from the very bottom as an Accounting Clerk at South African Police Services. Thereafter she moved to Harmony Gold Mine where she worked as a Senior Creditors Clerk. Mkhize-Zitha served Articles at Auditor General of South Africa and worked post articles for four years further, upon leaving AGSA. She then joined the KZN Provincial Treasury as a Deputy Director in Municipal Accounting and Reporting Unit.

Amongst other things she wishes to achieve in her tenure, Mkhize-Zitha said she wishes that her appointment will play a vital role in assisting the municipality to achieve clean



**Deputy Chief Financial Officer (CFO):
Mrs Slindile Mkhize-Zitha**

governance and improve financial management practices.

“Strengthen and ensure that I capacitate the Budget and Treasure Office (BTO) team in financial management through skills transfer and organizing relevant training as well as assist HGDM to improve the quality of its financial reporting and ultimately achieve the best audit opinion,” said Mkhize-Zitha.



The Senior Manager for Operations and Maintenance is a Motivated Individual with Strong Drive for Excellence

The Harry Gwala District Municipality has recently appointed Mamakhooa Ntamane as the senior manager for operations and maintenance under the water services department.

Ntamane holds a National Diploma in Civil Engineering from the then Mangosuthu Technikon. Additionally, Ntamane also holds a B-Tech in Civil Engineering as well from the Durban University of Technology as well as the Post Grad Diploma in Project Management from MANCOSA.

Moreover, Ntamane holds a National Certificate in Water and Wastewater Treatment as well.

Ntamane is an attentive technician especially in monitoring and resolving water related issues. He also prioritizes and undertakes tasks related to maintenance and repairs with strict time management, coupled with strong record-keeping skills with focus on accuracy.

“I am a motivated individual with strong drive for excellence. I interpret written requirements and specifications to meet Water and Sanitation services deadlines and quality standards. I am diligently skilled in technical matters of handling operations and maintenance services to align the required resources with budget allocations as well a exceptional problem-solving skills,” said Ntamane.

Ntamane is a service-oriented individual with more than three years working at senior management position under the water and sanitation services. Ntamane also has 10 Years working as the Area Manager Water and Sanitation Services Operations and Maintenance



Our new Senior Manager for Operations and Maintenance under the Water Services Department: Mamakhooa Ntamane

as well as 8 Years working as a technician in different spheres of water services.

The current responsibilities that Ntamane undertakes include monitoring the operations and maintenance of all water and wastewater infrastructure facilities.

“I manage the water demand and water conservation management for new developments within the municipal boundaries. I also coordinate the meter installation program, domestic meters and bulk meters amongst many other responsibilities attached to the post,” added Ntamane.

Ntamane’s previously worked as the Director for water and sanitation services under the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.



Ntombifuthi Mkhize:
Truck Driver



HGDM Truck-Driver Enjoys her Job More than Anything

In many occasions when one speaks about the truck-driver, it is natural to expect to see a male behind the steering, but in the Harry Gwala District Municipality, this is not entirely the case, as the Municipality has a female truck driver.

This is part of ongoing efforts to ensure and promote equality to end the notion that some other jobs are only reserved for males.

Ntombifuthi Mkhize (56) is one truck-driver of the Harry Gwala District Municipality who is not at all shy about her job, instead she enjoys each and every moment of what she does.

Evident to that, she has been voluntarily doing the job for many years until such a time truck-driver's posts opened and she qualified for the job. Mkhize works for Water and Sanitation Department in the Municipality.

As a grandmother of six grandchildren, she believes her journey to success is a lesson to everyone that perseverance is a mother of success and that people should learn to deal with challenges of life in a positive manner.

"Not everything will go your way and sometimes life will teach you different aspects that will require your strength and courage." Mkhize said.

She revealed that she has been a General Worker and later became a truck driver and has worked for 14 years. Mkhize said in her journey to become a truck-driver, she had to overcome a stigma of becoming a truck-driver while she is a female where some other people would even stare at her when doing her job as if something is wrong about her driving a truck.

Despite that she originates from a family of drivers as her brother is a bus driver while her father who inspired her was a truck-driver.

Starting as a General Worker, she only possessed a C1 (code 10) licence, she then gained a Code EB (Code 14) licence which could allow her to drive a truck.

Before she even was employed permanently as a driver she voluntarily worked as a truck driver, assisting her colleagues. She says this helped her gain experience.

Working with the community, she says, requires one to be patient and dedicated to the job. "Sometimes people are rude, when you deliver water, they ask why you are late. They have all sort of questions and issues. It requires one to be patient and to love your job and the community you serve. I love doing my job and very proud of being a female truck driver. I do my job with pride, I also service my community with pride," said Ms Mkhize.





Hard Work and Dedication is the Key to Success

Having started as meter reader on a six-month contract to a permanent employee with relevant qualifications to do the job has proven once more that hard work and dedication yields positive results.

The journey of the 60-year-old Nontuthuzela Majikijela born in Mount Fletcher in the rural are Nxotshana also proves that age is not a limit and thanks goes to the Harry Gwala District Municipality's tenacity in ensuring that she reached her goals.

"I moved to Kokstad, that is when I got to know of about the District (then Sisonke District Municipality). I was employed as a meter reader in March of 2006 on a six-month contract, mind you I only had my matric as my highest qualification and a certificate in basic computer on hand," narrated Nontuthuzela about her journey.

"I worked hard, I excelled in my work and my contract and that of other meter readers was extended for another six months. We continued to work harder as meter readers and I and other meter readers requested that we receive training on how to capture the readings we read on the desktop. Because of our hard work and dedication the District saw that we deserved to be assisted with furthering our studies, those that were interested and we grab the opportunity with both hands," continued Nontuthuzela.

"I further continued with my studies with UNISA and studied Public Management. I later graduated and I also attended many other training programs.

Time passed and there were posts I applied for within the District and through the grace of Gof I was employed in the position Admin Assistant SCM Demand which is where I am currently working to date," added Nontuthuzela.

She admitted that she had a great journey with Harry Gwala District Municipality, adding that she has grown and learnt a lot thanks to the District and concluded by saying; "I'm highly grateful for the opportunity I had".



I worked hard, I excelled in my work and my contract and that of other meter readers was extended for another six months. We continued to work harder as meter readers and I and other meter readers requested that we receive training on how to capture the readings we read on the desktop. Because of our hard work and dedication the District saw that we deserved to be assisted with furthering our studies, those that were interested and we grab the opportunity with both hands



Meet the EPWP Coordinator

ZANELE BAVU who started her career as at the Greater Kokstad Municipality as intern under the Community Services Department before moving to Impande Consulting Engineers where she worked as an EPWP Consultant placed at Harry Gwala District Municipality, was recently appointed as the EPWP Coordinator by the District Municipality.

Bavu who was born and bred in a rural village at ICala in the Eastern Cape matriculated from Hillside High School in the then Port Elizabeth now Gqeberha and completed a qualification in the Bachelor of Administration specializing in human resource, and is currently pursuing a qualification in BCom Horner's industrial Relations.

Having joined HGDM in March 2018 as the EPWP Coordinator, Bavu has achieved, but no limited, to the following:

- Winning the first runner up position in the entire province for EPWP soon after she joined the District .
- Employed more than 1000 participants using EPWP incentive grant (MIG) and WSIG in 2019
- Brought and continuing to bring about change in peoples lives, while creating livelihoods
- Creation of asset, infrastructure and skills to the district.
- 2023 Cogta recognized the District's EPWP as the best district in implementation of infrastructure projects in the province.
-

With regards to what she hopes to bring to the municipality, Bavu said; " I wish to bring change in implementation of innovative EPWP projects that will attract the youth. Advocate for the implementation of exit strategies for EPWP beneficiaries and create SMME's and permanent job also



**Zanele Bavu:
EPWP Coordinator**

through skills development or absorb them in the municipality".

"My message to other females in the same field is that they must be dedicated and patient when it comes to their work. It is a job that requires one to be able to deal with people, especially where in the rural areas we deal with some uneducated people so we must explain things to them in a simplest way. Focus more on labour intensive projects in their place of work. Also, in this field you are required to come up with innovative ways of doing your work so that you are successful," Bavu said.

My message to other females in the same field is that they must be dedicated and patient when it comes to their work.



EXPO for Young Scientists

Expo for young scientists sponsored by Eskom in Little Flower Secondary school. Budding scientists were gathered at Little Flower Secondary School where an Expo for potential young scientists sponsored by Eskom had the privilege to present their models on their strongest learning areas.

underdeveloped, you have proven to be dedicated and unshakeable young individuals. On this month we celebrate women as young girls we want to encourage you that “books before boys”. Focus on your studies and make us proud. To the young boys I once heard a drug dealer say our biggest clients are at schools, we generate more profit selling to school kids and I was displeased by that statement as it meant that you are all in grave danger if you are exposed to such”. The Speaker continued and stated that drugs are dangerous and they have the potential to ruin young people’s future at schools and even at homes. “Nonetheless I am proud of you and wish you the best remember Books Before Boys” said Mr Mdunge. One of the local successful dentists Mrs Nkanyezi Baai (26) was also part of the ceremony.



The opportunity was great for the learners to exercise their minds and thinking outside the box. It was an amazing engagement to award inspired young scientist as they showcased their work and creativity. Learners presented different types of models in the following area: Agricultural Science, Animal Science, Biomedical and Medical Science, Chemistry, Engineering and Environmental

Studies to name a few. The programme was later joined by Speaker of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr Mdunge who also shared that he was representing the District on behalf of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr ZD Nxumalo. Councillor Mdunge share words of motivation and was proud of the exceptional work presented by the learners and he said: " I am proud of you all even for those that come from rural areas that are

She was invited as a guest speaker to congratulate and motivate the young scientists. "It is a honour to be part of this ceremony I am Nkanyezi Baai and I am 26 years old. I studied dental therapy and I have two operating surgeries. The reason why I am emphasizing my age is to show you that you can still be successful at a young age, however you need to be dedicated and disciplined about your future, allow room for mistakes so that you learn better lessons in future," said Mrs Baai. The Harry Gwala District Municipality shares profound gratitude to this particular program as it empowers young minds and keeps them motivated at all times also preventing them from falling into crime and other negatives factors affecting the youth.





Harry Gwala Mourns the Passing of a Colleague

It was a sad and sorrowful moment for the Harry Gwala District Municipality employees when they bid their last goodbyes to their former colleague, who tragically passed on recently.

Qondokuhle Mdladla had worked as a general worker at the satellite office based at the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality. He worked under the Water Services Department.

Mourners at his send-off described the deceased as one of the outspoken employees who was committed to his work. The send-off took place at Donnybrook – Junction Hall and Mdladla was later buried at his home in the same area.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Corporate Services Manager, Thobile Thelma Thiyan-Magaqa delivered a speech on behalf of the Municipality employees.

She described the deceased's character as humble since they previously encountered each other on personal basis. "In spite of being outspoken, he showed humility and wisdom towards his colleagues," she said.

The Deputy Mayor Cllr. T.N. Jojozi shared the same sentiments when comforting mourners and sending heartfelt condolences to Mdladla's loved ones. She said losing someone who has been looking after his family was not easy. She urged family members to be strong.

Cllr Jojozi added; "Mdladla was respectful and a man who always maintained his honesty in any occasion".

Family, friends, colleagues and the community were all gathered to celebrate the life of Mdladla.



They all shared the same sentiment in that the Harry Gwala District Municipality has suffered a great loss. Mdladla will forever be cherished as a fallen soldier, may the family find comfort in the life that he lived.





GIFTS FOR UMZIMKHULU FLOOD VICTIMS

More than 100 families who have had their houses destroyed by floods earlier this year within the Harry Gwala District Municipality received the much-needed assistance from various organizations.

The distribution started recently at Bombo Community Hall, under the uMzimkhulu Municipality.

Community members were beaming with joy during the handing over of gifts from the Red Cross, Eskom and Disaster Management Team from the District.

The Harry Gwala District Disaster unit worked tirelessly to assess the amount of damage caused by the floods and identifying the needs of the affected families before contacting relevant stakeholders for assistance. Organizations, namely the Red Cross and Eskom aided in providing packs with necessities including toiletries, electrical appliances, cookware, food, mattresses and blankets.

Councillor Nompumelelo Damoyi, who was with one of the beneficiaries said she was over the moon with joy especially since the community had suffered during the January 2024 floods. “Most people lost their houses, also food. Our Disaster Management Unit assessed the damage. The Red Cross, Eskom and our Disaster team

said they had not forgotten them. We are excited that more than 20 families have received the much needed support,” said Councillor Damoyi.

The residents had no words to express their gratitude for such a great gesture. It was a moment of delight after having to suffer the loss of their very personal belongings due to floods. Miss Octovia Dlulisa, who was overwhelmed said: “I feel happy that the Municipality is thinking about us and our needs”, while looking at the items she received.

According to Ms. Thembekazi Nxumalo from the Red Cross a total of 100 families from the Harry Gwala District will benefit from this initiative. Mr. Nhlanhla Mdadane from the Harry Gwala District expressed gratitude on behalf of Mrs. Thandi Dzanibe who is the head of Disaster Management in the District.

He expressed gratitude to Red Cross for always coming on board with relief aid whenever they are requested.

He further expressed gratitude to the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Disaster Management team, Ward Councillors and ward committees for their cooperation. From Bombo Community Hall, they proceeded to Gugwini Community Hall. The following day, they handed over relief material to uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality respectively.



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY JULY 2024 DISASTER REPORT

During the month of July 2024, Harry Gwala District Municipality experienced strong winds and runaway veld fires that affected the local municipalities. **The Greater Kokstad Municipality** was mostly affected by runaway veld fires that occurred in farms under Swartberg. About six farms were affected in July.

One hundred and eleven (111) households and six (6) livestock farms were affected. Forty-six (46) households and one (1) farm was totally destroyed, while fifty-six (56) households were partially damaged.

Moreover, seventeen people were left homeless, with one hundred and seventy-six (176) people affected, while one fifty-seven (157) livestock burnt, and grazing land affected in most areas within the District due to runaway veld fires.

Disaster Management coordinated swift responses to the fires. The following responders put out the fires: GKM Fire and rescue services, Working on fire and farmer owners. ESKOM was also swift to respond to electricity poles that were affected. Some poles affected by the fires and strong winds were discharging. ESKOM disconnected and isolated them swiftly.

DATE	WARD	AREA	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND LIVESTOCK AFFECTED
07 July 2024	2 & 6	Evatt farms closer to D618 & Dorning Crushers	Grass & Eskom poles
09 July 2024	9 & 10	next to Nolangeni Bhambayi & Marikana	2 Households damaged
9 & 12 July 2024	3	Briden Farm near the Sewage works	No damages (grass only)
12 July 2024	6	Near the Kokstad Landfill site	No damages
14 July 2024		Bultfontein (Ettrick) near Swartberg	No damages
14 July 2024		Springfontein Farm near Makhoba at Swartberg	No damages
15 July 2024	9	Structural fire at Bhongweni Township	One flat damaged
20 July 2024		Klipdrift Farm at Swartberg	Lost 132 sheep's and 25 cows
22 July 2024		Rietfontein Farm at Franklin	No damages



Picture depicting livestock burnt by runaway veld fires at Klif Drift Farm under Kokstad (Swartberg)

Fires that occurred in August 2024

The following farms were affected by veld fires in the first week of August:

- Department of Agriculture Research – A substation that supply power to the farm was damaged as well as the shed where bales are stored.
- Kargs post farm – grazing land was burnt
- Bosman farm – Grazing land was burnt
- Kemps residential farm – Grazing land was burnt
- Old orchard Lodge – Grazing land was burnt.

Greater Kokstad Fire and rescue services responded to the fires with the support from the Working on Fire team.



Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality was also affected by veld fires that eventually led to structural fires in Ward 1 and ward 7. Three (3) households were affected, and two (2) households were totally destroyed, and one was partially damaged. The affected families are:

- Bhengu family in Eggqumeni (ward 7)
- Msomi family in KwaThunzi (ward 1)
- Cele family in KwaThunzi (Ward 1)

The damages were assessed by the Dr. NDZ Disaster Management team and the affected families were issued with immediate relief.



Above: Pictures depicting houses destroyed by fire in Dr. NDZ local Municipality in ward 1 and ward 7 in the first week of August 2024.08.14



Umngeni - Uthukela Annual Sport Tournament



eThekweni Metro, Msunduzi Local Municipality, Ugu, UMgungundlovu, ILembe District Municipalities as well as Siza Water and UMngeni-Uthukela Water Services (Uuw).

Both Male and Female Volleyball teams from the District were crowned champions in this tournament.

In the Netball sporting code, the Harry Gwala ladies lost in semifinals to Ugu, while the Ladies Soccer, playing for the first time, also played exceptional well. Men's soccer also played well. All the teams represented the District Municipality well, showing team spirit and showing wellness through sport.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality team excelled during the recent Umngeni- Uthukela Annual Sport Tournament held at Siripat Grounds, Reservoir Hills in Durban.

This year's annual Tournament was nothing short of fun and excitement as participation grew tremendously compared to previous years. Municipalities that attended included





The Municipal Manager Mr. G.M Sineke, welcomed the trophy received by the volleyball champions in his office. He congratulated team Harry Gwala.

On behalf of the organizers, Umngeni-Uthukela Water, expressed gratitude to all the teams who participated.

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank every municipality/ organization that participated in this year’s tournament. Though we had glitches here and there the tournament in the end was a success. Congratulations are in order to all the winners in different sports codes. Hard luck to those who didn’t become champions,” said Mr. G.M Sineke

He continued: “The objective was to play against each other, to form and strengthen good relationships, social cohesion, amongst other objectives. In the end there will always be one winner in each sport code. Without your dedication and support we wouldn’t have had a successful tournament. We are humbled by the manner you conducted yourselves throughout the tournament”.

“To those who were hurt physically and emotionally during the tournament by either the behavior of other players, referees or umpires, we apologize on their behalf. I hope we will improve next year when we meet again on the South Coast as we will be hosted by UGu DM. Let’s take lessons from this and improve. UUW, is still willing to continue with the tournament with its customers and have them together at one place for



the weekend to promote healthy living and well-ness of employees,” he concluded.





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



"Together we Deliver and Grow"