



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 5

2026 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



TOGETHER WE DELIVER AND GROW





VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Continuously improving Water and Sanitation Provision for our Communities through sustainable innovations by 2050.

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together with its communities and stakeholders, Harry Gwala District Municipality will ensure the provision of sustainable potable water and sanitation services.

CORE VALUES

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Consultation
- Commitment and Honesty

The structure below depicts how the Committees have been established and further indicates the respective Chairpersons and members - 2024/2025:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Councillor ZD Nxumalo	Mayor (Chairperson)
Councillor TN Jojozi	Deputy Mayor
Councillor SD Bekwa	Member
Councillor Z Tshangase	Member
Councillor KS Dlamini	Member

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Councillor NW Dladla	Chairperson
Councillor N Mda	Member
Councillor BL Marncé	Member
Councillor BR Memela	Member
Councillor HA Lukhozi	Member

BUDGET AND TREASURY OFFICE COMMITTEE

Councillor ZD Nxumalo	Chairperson (Mayor)
Councillor TN Jojozi	Member (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor SD Bekwa	Member (Exco)
Councillor KS Dlamini	Member (Exco)
Councillor SRL Nzimande	Member

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor TN Jojozi	Chairperson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor B Sibeni	Member
Councillor TSH Gamede	Member
Councillor XM Memela	Member
Councillor PN Damoyi	Member

SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor TN Jojozi	Chairperson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor NH Zaca	Member
Councillor PK Memela	Member
Councillor NC Dlamini	Member
Councillor N Mhathu	Member

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor ZD Nxumalo	Chairperson (Mayor)
Councillor ZP Dlamini	Member
Councillor NR Mtshali	Member
Councillor HV Msomi	Member
Councillor ZM Ngidi	Member

Councillor Z Tshangase	Member (Exco)
Inkosi W W Zimema	Ex Officio Member

WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor SD Bekwa	Chairperson
Councillor SG Mkhize	Member
Councillor TG Soni	Member
Councillor ZR Tshazi	Member
Councillor NH Malimela	Member
Councillor N Mathe	Member

LOCAL LABOUR FORUM (LLF)

Councillor SRL Nzimande	Chairperson
Councillor ZR Tshazi	Member
Councillor ZP Dlamini	Member
Councillor TSH Gamede	Member

WOMENS MULTI PARTY COMMISSION

Councillor ZP Dlamini	Chairperson Women's Caucus
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All Female Councillors Are Members

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A LEGACY OF SERVICE, A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES

"A river does not cease to flow because the seasons change; it simply finds new paths to reach those who depend upon it."



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza
Communications Manager

As we present this edition of the Harry Gwala District Municipality Newsletter, we stand at the threshold of another defining chapter in South Africa's democratic journey. The forthcoming Local Government Elections will undoubtedly usher in heightened public engagement, diverse perspectives, and renewed expectations from the communities we proudly serve. Yet, amidst the changing political landscape, one principle remains unwavering: our enduring commitment to serving the people of the Harry Gwala District with integrity, accountability, transparency, and excellence.

Like the river in our opening reflection, the work of local government continues regardless of changing seasons. It carries with it the essential services, opportunities, and hope upon which our communities depend. While leadership terms may begin and end, the responsibility to improve lives remains constant.

Just as the first light of dawn signals the promise of a new day, this edition illuminates the significant progress achieved in advancing service delivery throughout our District. Every water project completed, every household connected, every community empowered, and every partnership strengthened represents far more than a milestone; it is a promise honoured and an investment in the future prosperity of our people.

Within these pages, we celebrate the successful completion and handover of the Mqumeni Water Supply Scheme in Ward 22 and the Khukhulela Water Supply Scheme in Ward 05, while also highlighting the continued implementation of the Thuthukani Water Supply Scheme within the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality. These projects are more than engineering achievements; they are lifelines that restore dignity, improve public health, stimulate economic opportunity, and create a stronger foundation for sustainable development.

True development is measured not only by the infrastructure we build but also by the opportunities we create for people. The launch of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Empowerment Initiative reflects our commitment to equipping beneficiaries with practical skills, knowledge, and opportunities that extend well beyond temporary employment. By investing in people, we cultivate resilient communities capable of shaping their own futures.

Communication remains the bridge that connects government with the people it serves. The District Communicators Forum reaffirmed the importance of ethical, responsible, and people-centred communication, particularly during an election period when public confidence depends on transparency, credibility, and access to accurate information. As communicators, we

carry the responsibility of ensuring that facts prevail over speculation and that every community voice is heard with clarity, fairness, and respect.

This edition also reflects the spirit of compassion that defines public service. In commemorating the legacy of the late President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the Municipality once again embraced the values of selfless service through the 67 Minutes for Madiba initiative. By extending support to vulnerable families, we were reminded that genuine leadership is measured not by speeches delivered from podiums, but by the positive difference made in the everyday lives of our citizens.

Equally significant is the adoption of the Municipality's R1.076 billion Budget for the 2026/27 financial year- a bold and strategic investment in water security, disaster management, environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, and improved municipal services. Like a farmer preparing fertile soil before the arrival of the rains, this budget lays the foundation upon which future generations will build their hopes, aspirations, and prosperity.

As the election season gathers momentum, it is important to remember that municipalities remain the sphere of government closest to the people. Our obligation to deliver quality services, strengthen accountability, and uphold the principles of good governance does not diminish during periods of political transition; rather, it becomes even more significant. We therefore remain steadfast in our commitment to serve every resident with professionalism, impartiality, fairness, and respect.

As we approach the conclusion of the current Council's term of office in November, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Executive Mayor, Councillors, and all those who have served the people of the Harry Gwala District with dedication, integrity, and distinction throughout this term. While every journey ultimately reaches its destination, the legacy of committed public service endures long after the journey has ended. Their collective leadership and unwavering commitment have contributed meaningfully to improving the quality of life of our communities and advancing the developmental agenda of our District.

May this newsletter do more than inform; may it inspire. May it remind us that sustainable progress is never the achievement of one individual alone, but the product of communities, public servants, leaders, and partners working together towards a common purpose. Together, let us continue writing a story of resilience, unity, and shared prosperity- one in which every household has access to opportunity, every voice is valued, and every step we take today becomes the foundation for a brighter tomorrow.



SIBONGILE KUNENE
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER



MS FUNDISILE QOZA
COMMUNICATIONS
INTERN



MR BANDILE MTOLO
COMMUNICATIONS
INTERN

A DISTRICT UNITED IN DEVELOPMENT, RESILIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY



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

I extend my warmest greetings to all readers of this first edition of our municipal newsletter following the close of the 2025/2026 financial year.

It has been a year defined by meaningful collaboration between the Harry Gwala District Municipality and the communities we proudly serve.

The progress we have achieved is a testament to the enduring partnership between local government and our residents, whose commitment to development continues to inspire us.

As a District Municipality, our constitutional mandate is centred on providing safe and reliable water services and sanitation infrastructure.

These responsibilities are both extensive and complex, and their successful execution depends not only on municipal resources but also on the active participation, cooperation, and understanding of our communities.

It is for this reason that we continue to encourage every resident to remain actively engaged in the programmes and initiatives that shape the future of our district.

I am immensely proud to lead a district whose people demonstrate resilience, innovation, and a profound understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

Across several communities, residents have taken the initiative to install water infrastructure themselves, with the municipality providing support through water tanks, pipes, and technical assistance where required.

Such acts of self-reliance reflect a community spirit that refuses to wait for opportunity but instead partners with government to accelerate development.

Constructive criticism remains an indispensable pillar of accountable governance. We welcome public scrutiny because it strengthens our institutions and enables us to improve our service delivery.

However, we encourage criticism that is accompanied by constructive engagement and practical solutions, ensuring that together we address challenges in a manner that benefits our communities.

During the previous financial year, we successfully implemented and handed over several critical water and sanitation projects. While some projects experienced unavoidable delays, we remained transparent by keeping communities informed of progress, challenges, and mitigation measures.

We also appealed for the protection of municipal infrastructure, recognising that vandalism and unlawful interference undermine the very services intended to improve people's lives.

Although isolated service delivery protests occurred in a few areas, Harry Gwala District was fortunate to experience relatively limited unrest. Through continuous dialogue and direct engagement, we worked alongside affected communities to explain circumstances, resolve concerns, and restore confidence.

This collaborative approach reflects our unwavering belief that sustainable solutions are built through communication rather than confrontation.

As the current term of office draws to its conclusion, I encourage every eligible citizen to exercise their democratic right by participating in the Local Government Elections on 4 November 2026. Democracy flourishes when citizens actively determine the leadership that will continue advancing development and safeguarding the interests of our communities.

The 2026/2027 municipal budget exceeds R1 billion, a remarkable achievement considering the challenging economic environment facing our country.

At a time of constrained economic growth and fiscal pressure, this investment demonstrates government's steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life of our people.

I also wish to commend our four local municipalities- Greater Kokstad, uMzimkhulu, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and Johannes Phumani Phungula- for their prudent management of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

Their responsible expenditure and sound financial governance have earned the confidence of the National Treasury, resulting in additional infrastructure allocations that will further accelerate service delivery across our district.

While uMzimkhulu and Greater Kokstad have distinguished themselves through exceptional infrastructure spending, every municipality deserves recognition for its commitment to ensuring that public funds are managed responsibly, transparently, and in the best interests of taxpayers.

Furthermore, the construction of the R200 million Kempsdale Dam is steadily approaching completion.

This landmark project will significantly enhance water security for the rapidly expanding Kokstad area, providing a sustainable water supply capable of meeting the needs of current and future generations for decades to come.

The project also lays a strong foundation for continued economic growth, supporting major investments, including the planned development of a new regional shopping mall and other strategic developments that will stimulate employment and investment in our district.

As we embark on another financial year, let us remain united in our shared commitment to building a prosperous, resilient, and inclusive Harry Gwala District.

Together, through responsible leadership, active citizenship, and unwavering partnership, we will continue expanding access to essential services, strengthening our economy, and creating opportunities for every resident.

Our greatest achievements have always been realised when government and communities work hand in hand, and I remain confident that, together, we will continue to build a district where every citizen can look to the future with hope, dignity, and confidence.

**Cllr Zamo Nxumalo
District Mayor
Harry Gwala District Municipality**



Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke
Municipal Manager

BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ACTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

It gives me great pleasure to present the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) for the 2026/2027 financial year of **Harry Gwala District Municipality**. The commencement of the new financial year marks the transition from planning to implementation as we execute the Council-approved R1 billion budget, reflecting our commitment to delivering quality municipal services, improving infrastructure, and enhancing the quality of life in our communities.

The SDBIP is a critical management and accountability tool prescribed in terms of **Section 53(1)(c)(ii) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 (MFMA) and the MFMA Circular No. 13**. It gives practical effect to the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the approved Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) by translating strategic objectives into measurable service delivery targets and monthly, quarterly and annual performance indicators.

As we begin the 2026/2027 financial year, the municipality is focused on the effective implementation of the adopted budget by rolling out operational programmes and strategic capital projects to improve service delivery, stimulate local economic development, maintain municipal infrastructure, and strengthen institutional capacity. Successful implementation will require sound financial management, effective contract management, and continuous monitoring of performance across all municipal departments.

The municipality remains committed to complying with the legislative requirements of the **Municipal**

Finance Management Act (MFMA) and the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000 (MSA). Particular emphasis will be placed on the timely preparation and submission of mandatory financial and performance reports, including the monthly budget statements in terms of **Section 71 of the MFMA**, quarterly performance reports, mid-year assessments, and annual reporting obligations. These reports provide the Council, oversight structures, and provincial and national governments with accurate information to monitor financial performance and service delivery progress.

Performance management will continue to be a key priority during the financial year. In accordance with **Chapter 6 of the Municipal Systems Act**, the municipality will continuously monitor, review, and evaluate organisational performance against the targets contained in the SDBIP. Regular performance reviews will enable the municipality to identify implementation challenges early, introduce corrective measures where necessary, and ensure accountability at all levels of the organisation.

The successful implementation of the SDBIP depends on collective leadership, sound governance, prudent financial management, and the commitment of every employee to delivering services efficiently and effectively. Through continuous monitoring, transparent reporting, and responsible stewardship of public resources, we remain committed to achieving the strategic objectives of the Council and meeting the expectations of our communities.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Executive Mayor, Speaker, Members of Council, management, municipal employees, and all stakeholders for their continued support and commitment. Together, we will work diligently to ensure that the approved budget translates into tangible service delivery outcomes, sustainable infrastructure development, and improved living conditions for all residents of Harry Gwala District Municipality.

Mr. G. M. Sineke
Municipal Manager

“The successful implementation of the SDBIP depends on collective leadership, sound governance, prudent financial management, and the commitment of every employee to delivering services efficiently and effectively.”

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



MR. NKULULEKO BIYASE
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES



MRS. THOBILE THELMA THIYANE-MAGAQA
CORPORATE SERVICES



MR. LINDUMUSA GWALA
WATER SERVICES



MS. THOBÉKA MAHLABA
SOCIAL SERVICES



MR. THEMBA BONGANI MNGUNI
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

REGISTER TO VOTE



DAY 1 - FINAL VOTER REGISTRATION WEEKEND FOR 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

📅 Aug 01, 2026 08:00 AM to Aug 01, 2026 05:00 PM

Registration Stations Nationally

DAY 2 - FINAL VOTER REGISTRATION WEEKEND FOR 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

📅 Aug 02, 2026 08:00 AM to Aug 02, 2026 05:00 PM

Registration Stations Nationally

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2026

📅 Nov 04, 2026 07:00 AM to Nov 04, 2026 09:00 PM

Voting Stations Nationally

President Cyril Ramaphosa has confirmed Wednesday, **04 November 2026** as the date for South Africa's Local Government Elections. Not registered yet, or moved recently? Make sure you're registered at the voting district where you currently live, as you can only vote where you're registered. Register or update your details: Online at registertovote.elections.org.za
In person at **your voting station** on **04 November 2026**. **Remember to bring your ID.**

To find your specific voting station in the Harry Gwala District, use the Electoral Commission Voting Station Finder or check details via the IEC South Africa portal.

The Harry Gwala District (located in southwestern KwaZulu-Natal) covers local municipalities including Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Greater Kokstad, Umzimkhulu, and Ubuhlebezwe, each containing numerous designated local voting sites such as community halls and schools.

Local Municipalities in Harry Gwala

Greater Kokstad: Covers Kokstad and surrounding rural wards.

Umzimkhulu: Covers Umzimkhulu town and nearby settlements.

Ubuhlebezwe: Covers Ixopo and surrounding areas.

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma: Covers Underberg, Himeville, Bulwer, and surrounding farmlands.

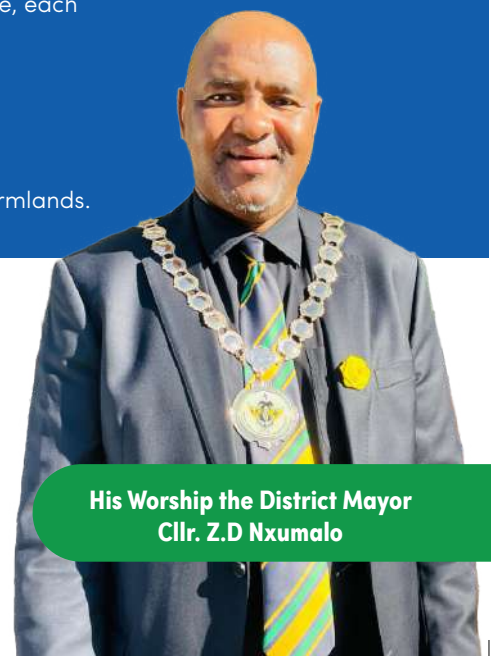


SOUTH AFRICA

How to Check Your Station

Online Map: Open the Voting Station Finder and click on your home address.

SMS Option: SMS your **ID number** to **32810** to get your registered voting station details.



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

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

COUNCIL MEMBERS



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. K.S. DLAMINI



EXCO MEMBER
CLLR. Z. TSHANGASE



CLLR. T.G. SONI



CLLR. T.S.H. GAMEDE



CLLR. S.G. MKHIZE



CLLR. N.B. MNGADI



CLLR. Z.M. NGIDI



CLLR. N.W. DLADLA



CLLR. Z.R. TSHAZI



CLLR. P.N. DAMOYI

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

COUNCIL MEMBERS



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. X. MEMELA



CLLR. B. SIBENI



CLLR. N. MATHE

TRADITIONAL LEADERS



INKOSI M.B. MJOLI



INKOSI V.V. ZIMEMA



INKOSI L.T. BALENI

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT RE-LAUNCHES YOUTH COUNCIL TO ADVANCE YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

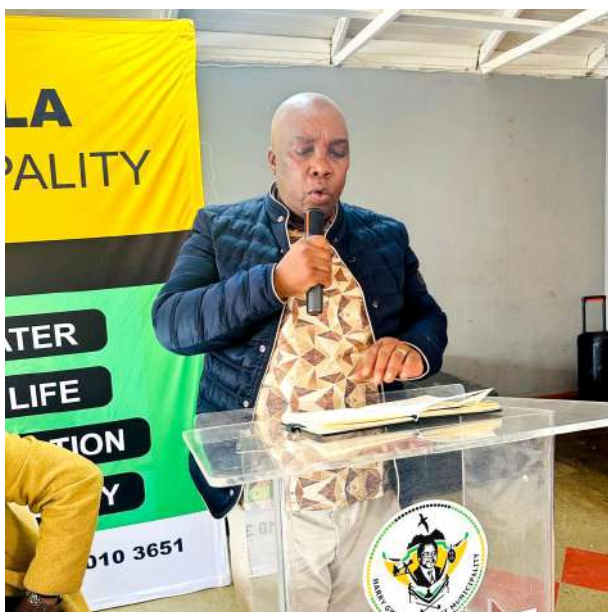


The Harry Gwala District Municipality, in partnership with its four local municipalities, has officially relaunched the Harry Gwala District Youth Council at Mzwandile Hall in Umzimkhulu, reaffirming its commitment to fostering youth leadership, meaningful participation and sustainable socio-economic development across the district.

The relaunch brought together a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), the South African Youth Council (SAYC), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), municipal leadership, youth development practitioners and officials from the district's local municipalities.

Welcoming delegates, District Youth Council Chairperson, Mr Mbanjwa, underscored the critical role of young people in shaping the future of the district. He called on the youth to embrace the renewed mandate of the Council with dedication, integrity and purpose, encouraging them to become active contributors to community development and agents of positive change.

Director of Social Services, Ms T.T. Mahloba, outlined the strategic significance of the relaunch,



Delegates and municipal leadership during the official relaunch of the Harry Gwala District Youth Council at Mzwandile Hall in Umzimkhulu. The event brought together COGTA, NYDA, SAYC and youth stakeholders to advance youth leadership and development in the district.



noting that the revitalised Youth Council would strengthen collaboration between government institutions and young people while serving as a catalyst for addressing pressing youth challenges. She further highlighted that the Municipality has prioritised a range of youth-centred programmes in the new financial year, with the Council expected to play a pivotal role in driving their implementation and impact.

Delivering the keynote address, District Speaker Cllr S.D. Mdunge paid tribute to the enduring legacy of the June 16 generation, urging today's youth to honour that sacrifice by rejecting substance abuse, embracing education and skills development, and seizing opportunities created through government programmes.

He highlighted several initiatives aimed at empowering young people, including skills development programmes, driver's licence support, bursary opportunities, learner registration assistance and economic empowerment interventions. He also encouraged young people to participate actively in

democratic processes and municipal development initiatives, emphasising that their voices and leadership are indispensable to building resilient and prosperous communities.

The proceedings culminated in the election of a new District Youth Council Executive Committee, signalling the beginning of a renewed era of youth representation and advocacy. Accepting the responsibility, the newly elected Chairperson expressed appreciation to the Municipality and its partners for creating a platform that amplifies the voices of young people and ensures their meaningful inclusion in governance and decision-making.

The relaunch of the Harry Gwala District Youth Council marks a significant milestone in strengthening youth participation, nurturing future leaders and advancing inclusive socio-economic development throughout the district. It reflects the Municipality's enduring commitment to empowering young people as key partners in shaping a vibrant, innovative and sustainable future for the communities of Harry Gwala.



Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma LM Mayor Cllr S.P. Msomi, and Speaker Cllr S. Mdunge engaging with March-on-March movement representatives at Donnybrook Police Station on 25 June 2026.

MAYORS ENGAGE MARCH ON MARCH LEADERSHIP OVER COMMUNITY MEMORANDUM

Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor, Councillor Zamo Nxumalo, together with Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Sindisiwe P. Msomi, and Speaker Councillor Sibongiseni Mdunge, convened a high-level engagement at Donnybrook Police Station with municipal officials and representatives of the March-on-March movement following the submission of a memorandum of demands to both municipalities on 25 June 2026.

The meeting sought to establish a coordinated response to a range of concerns raised by the organisation, which it says are affecting the wellbeing, safety and socio-economic development of the Donnybrook community.

Among the key issues contained in the memorandum were calls for stricter enforcement of immigration laws, compliance with business licensing and informal trading regulations, adherence to building, health and safety standards, the temporary closure of businesses owned by undocumented immigrants pending verification of their legal status, and the provision of additional community development facilities.

Addressing the meeting, March on March representative Mr K. Nzima said the movement believes South Africa must first resolve its domestic socio-economic challenges before allowing further immigration, arguing that only legally documented individuals should be permitted to remain or enter the

“Municipalities have authority over issues such as land use, zoning and regulatory compliance, while the identification and verification of individuals' legal status falls within the constitutional mandate of the Department of Home Affairs.”

country in accordance with the law.

Responding on behalf of the district, Mayor Nxumalo assured community representatives that every concern in the memorandum would undergo thorough investigation through the appropriate government channels.

He further noted that the issue of immigrant-owned businesses allegedly selling expired or unsafe food products had already received extensive attention during the District Development Model (DDM) engagement held on 25 June 2026, adding that the relevant authorities would pursue appropriate interventions.

"The matters raised require a measured, lawful and coordinated response," Mayor Nxumalo said. "Municipalities have authority over issues such as land use, zoning and regulatory compliance, while



the identification and verification of individuals' legal status falls within the constitutional mandate of the Department of Home Affairs. We therefore call upon Home Affairs to intensify its role in verifying the legal status of immigrants and enforcing the country's immigration legislation."

On matters relating to service delivery, Mayor Nxumalo confirmed that the request for establishing a public library in Donnybrook would receive due consideration. He also announced that the municipality would undertake a comprehensive land audit to

determine the ownership and title deed status of land throughout Donnybrook, a process expected to provide greater certainty for future planning and development initiatives.

The engagement concluded with both municipalities undertaking to continue consultations with the relevant government departments and stakeholders before providing formal feedback to the March-on-March movement and the wider Donnybrook community on the progress made in addressing the issues raised in the memorandum.

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION



ICT professionals and municipal officials during the Information and Communication Technology District Forum at the Harry Gwala Municipal Council Chamber.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality has reinforced its commitment to advancing digital transformation by successfully hosting the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) District Forum at the Municipal Council Chamber.

The forum convened ICT professionals, municipal officials, and key stakeholders from across the region to strengthen intergovernmental collaboration, exchange innovative ideas, and explore technology-driven solutions aimed at enhancing service delivery, improving operational efficiency, and modernising local government.

Deliberations centred on critical priorities shaping the future of municipal ICT, including digital transformation, cybersecurity, systems integration, emerging technologies, data governance, and innovative approaches to building smarter, more resilient, and responsive municipalities.

The forum was attended by representatives from uGu District Municipality, Ray Nkonyeni

Local Municipality, Umzumbe Local Municipality, uMuziwabantu Local Municipality, and uMdoni Local Municipality, demonstrating a collective commitment to advancing digital governance and fostering regional cooperation.

By promoting knowledge sharing and adopting best practices, the ICT District Forum continues to serve as a catalyst for innovation, enabling municipalities to address common technological challenges while embracing digital solutions that strengthen governance, enhance institutional capacity, and improve the quality of services delivered to communities.

As municipalities accelerate their digital transformation journeys, collaborative platforms such as the ICT District Forum remain instrumental in building a future-ready local government—one that is innovative, secure, resilient, and equipped to meet the evolving needs and expectations of citizens in an increasingly digital world.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MARKS YOUTH MONTH THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT



Mayor Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo with Chief Whip Cllr N. Mhatu and Cllr Msomi engaging with young people at the Youth Month Commemoration held at Soweto Hall, Morningside. Beneficiaries of the Cyber Security and Driver's Licence Training Programmes were also recognised during the event.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Commemorated Youth Month by hosting a vibrant Youth Commemoration Event at Soweto Hall in Morningside, under the Johannesburg Local Municipality. The event showcased the municipality's ongoing commitment to empowering young people through education, skills development and economic opportunities. It was attended by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo, Chief Whip Cllr N. Mhatu, Cllr Msomi, members of the District Youth Council and young people from across the district.

Welcoming attendees, Cllr Msomi congratulated the youth on Youth Month and encouraged them to embrace opportunities that promote personal growth, leadership and future success. Chief Whip Cllr N. Mhatu reflected on the significance of the 1976 Soweto Uprising, reminding participants that the courage and resilience of that generation continue to inspire today's youth. She encouraged young people to pursue education, develop practical skills and participate in programmes that improve their livelihoods, while reaffirming the municipality's commitment to ensuring inclusive access to opportunities, including for persons

with disabilities.

Delivering the keynote address, Mayor Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo urged young people to become active citizens by participating in democratic processes and making informed decisions about their future. He highlighted the municipality's youth development programmes and encouraged beneficiaries to make full use of available opportunities to build sustainable livelihoods. A key highlight of the event was the presentation of Cyber Security Certificates to programme graduates in recognition of their commitment to acquiring critical digital skills. Selected beneficiaries were also introduced to the Driver's Licence Training Programme; an initiative aimed at improving employability and expanding access to economic opportunities.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by uMzimkhulu Youth Chairperson Ms Thozama Peter, who commended the municipality and its partners for their continued investment in youth development. The commemoration reaffirmed Harry Gwala District Municipality's commitment to equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and opportunities needed to build a prosperous and sustainable future.

HARRY GWALA DELIVERS THREE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HANDLED OVER TO COMMUNITIES



Executive Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo and Speaker Cllr S. Mdunge officially handing over the Thuthukani Water Supply Scheme to the community.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality continues to translate its development agenda into tangible improvements in the lives of residents through the successful completion and handover of three major infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening water security, sanitation, and community wellbeing.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, accompanied by Speaker Cllr Sibongiseni Mdunge, members of Council, municipal leadership, and key stakeholders, officially handed over the projects during a

community engagement programme that underscored the municipality's unwavering commitment to accelerating service delivery across the district.

Among the flagship initiatives is the completion of the Thuthukani Water Supply Scheme, a critical intervention that restores reliable access to clean water for the Thuthukani community. The scheme includes the installation of 5,000-litre water storage tanks designed to enhance the reliability, resilience, and sustainability of the local water supply network.

The project directly addresses longstanding water shortages,





ageing infrastructure, and operational inefficiencies while advancing the municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) objective of reducing basic service delivery backlogs. The municipality funded and supplied all construction materials required for the implementation of the project.

In Bhongweni, residents are set to benefit from the extensive refurbishment and upgrading of the area's water infrastructure. Upon completion, the project will provide an improved and more dependable water supply to approximately 3,991 households, significantly enhancing the quality of life for thousands of residents.

The project is being implemented under the technical oversight of Zimile (Pty) Ltd as the appointed consulting engineer; while Imvusa Trading and Mina Trading have been appointed as the principal contractors responsible for construction.

The municipality also handed over the Mahhagi Waterborne Sanitation Yard Connection Project in Ward 5. The sanitation initiative will benefit 186 households, impacting an estimated 750 residents through improved access to safe and dignified sanitation services. The project is expected to promote better public health outcomes, improved hygiene standards, environmental sustainability, and enhanced living conditions for beneficiary communities.

Complementing these infrastructure investments, the municipality hosted an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Empowerment Programme at the Greater Kokstad Municipality Council Chamber, where 54 EPWP participants received empowerment support aimed

at enhancing their employability and livelihoods.

The EPWP remains one of government's most important socio-economic interventions, providing temporary employment opportunities, income support, skills development, and workplace experience to unemployed citizens while contributing to community development.

Addressing residents during the handover ceremony, Executive Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo expressed his appreciation to communities for their continued cooperation and active participation in municipal development programmes.

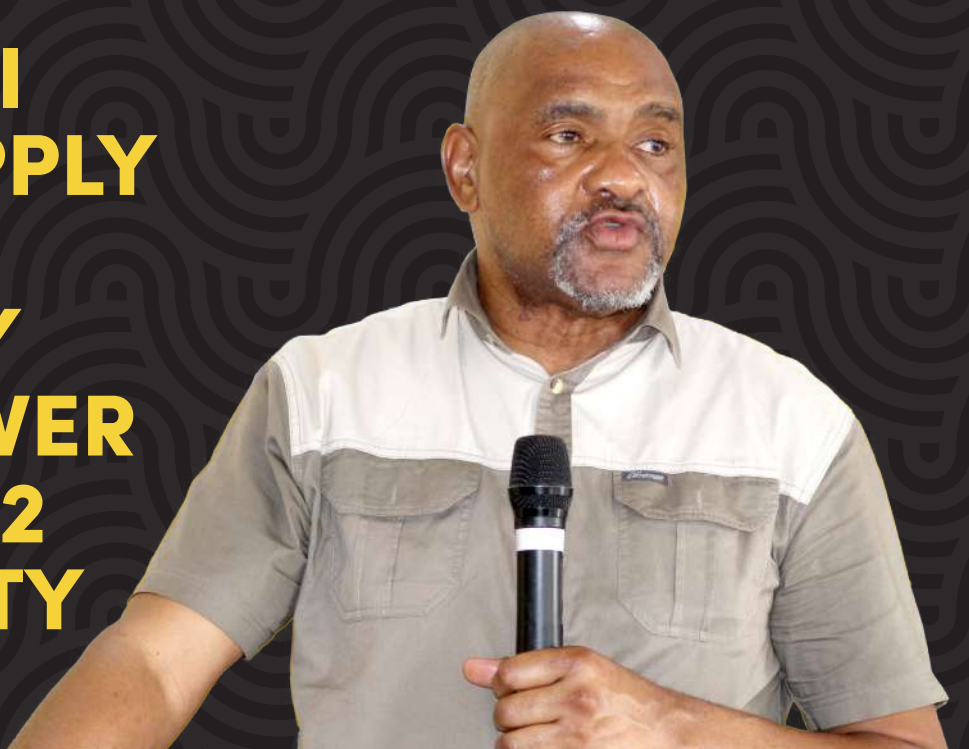
"We appreciate our communities for meeting the municipality halfway in ensuring that development reaches every household. Service delivery is a shared responsibility, and together we are building stronger, more resilient communities," said Mayor Nxumalo.

The Mayor also encouraged eligible residents to exercise their democratic right by registering to vote and participating in the forthcoming elections, emphasizing that active citizenship remains essential to sustaining developmental local government.

The simultaneous rollout of water, sanitation, and employment initiatives demonstrates the Harry Gwala District Municipality's integrated approach to development- one that combines essential infrastructure investment with economic empowerment to improve the quality of life for all residents. Through these projects, the municipality continues to deliver visible, people-centred services that respond directly to the needs and aspirations of communities across the district.



MNQUMENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO WARD 22 COMMUNITY



Mayor Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo, Deputy Mayor Cllr N. Jojozi, and Speaker Cllr S.D. Mdunge handing over the Mmqumeni Water Supply Scheme at Khiliva Hall, Ward 22, uMzimkhulu.



The Harry Gwala District Municipality, in partnership with the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality, has officially handed over the Mmqumeni Water Supply Scheme to the residents of Ward 22 during a ceremony held at Khiliva Hall in uMzimkhulu.

The event was attended by Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo, Deputy Mayor Cllr Nosisa Jojozi, Speaker Cllr S.D. Mdunge, Chief Whip Cllr N. Mhatu, councillors, municipal officials, traditional leaders, and representatives from various government departments, including Agriculture, Health, Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

Welcoming guests, Ward Councillor Cllr Lukhakhayi expressed gratitude to the Harry Gwala District Municipality for addressing the community's long-standing water challenges. He described the completion of the project as a testament to the power of collaboration between government and local communities in advancing sustainable development.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Nosisa Jojozi introduced the

dignitaries, while the Municipal Manager recognised the officials, engineers and project teams whose dedication ensured the successful implementation of the scheme. Speaker Cllr S.D. Mdunge said the handover reflected government's unwavering commitment to improving service delivery and extending essential infrastructure to rural communities.

Traditional leaders, including Inkosi M.B. Mjoli, Headman Z. Bly, and L. Fodo, welcomed the project as a transformative investment that will improve household access to clean water, strengthen agricultural activities, and unlock new economic opportunities. They commended both municipalities for prioritising rural development and responding to the needs of local communities.

Representatives from the IEC used the occasion to encourage residents to actively participate in the forthcoming elections by exercising their democratic right to vote.

Speaking on behalf of the Mayor of uMzimkhulu Local Municipality, Speaker Cllr Lukhakhayi applauded the successful delivery of the project and urged residents to safeguard the infrastructure by preventing vandalism.



and refraining from illegal water connections, warning that such practices threaten the long-term sustainability of the water supply system.

Delivering the keynote address, Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo said the Mnqumeni Water Supply Scheme, initiated in 2019, forms part of the municipality's broader commitment to ensuring universal access to safe and reliable drinking water.

He revealed that 18 of the municipality's 22 wards already have access to water services, while the remaining four wards are being incorporated through the municipality's current R78 million water infrastructure programme, which will provide thousands of households with direct access to clean water through newly installed household taps.

Mayor Nxumalo emphasised that sustainable service delivery depends on a strong partnership between government and communities. He called on residents to protect public infrastructure, use water responsibly, and reject illegal connections that undermine the system.

Quoting the late former President Nelson Mandela's vision of "a better life for all," Mayor Nxumalo reaffirmed the municipality's commitment to expanding access to basic services, improving living conditions, and driving inclusive development across the Harry Gwala District.

The handover of the Mnqumeni Water Supply Scheme marks another significant milestone in the municipality's ongoing mission to deliver reliable water infrastructure, enhance the dignity of rural communities, and build a resilient future where every household enjoys access to this fundamental resource.



KHUKHULELA WATER SCHEME PROJECT AND EPWP UPLIFTMENT CERTIFICATES HANDLED OVER IN WARD 05

The Harry Gwala District Municipality successfully hosted the official handover of the Khukhulela Water Scheme Project and Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Upliftment Certificates at Dazini Sports Field in Kilmun, Ward 05, under the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality.

The event formed part of a collaborative programme held alongside the KwaZulu-Natal Premier's Crime Fighting Imbizo, led by Honourable Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli, bringing together government leaders, traditional leadership, stakeholders, and community members to advance service delivery, strengthen public safety, and promote sustainable rural development.

Addressing the gathering, Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo expressed his appreciation to Premier Ntuli for the opportunity to host the joint programme, describing it as a demonstration of the power of cooperative governance in addressing community needs.

The Mayor also acknowledged the unwavering support of the District Management Team, municipal officials, and stakeholders whose collective efforts continue to ensure meaningful community engagement and the successful implementation of development initiatives across the district.

Mayor Nxumalo described the Khukhulela Water Scheme as a strategic long-term investment prioritised

since 2021 to strengthen water security by harnessing sustainable river water sources. He noted that the project has already improved access to clean water in Dazini through existing communal standpipes, providing immediate relief to local households.

Once fully operational, the scheme will abstract and treat water from the uMzimkhulu River before distributing it through the Centocow Water Supply System to communities including Mvundleni, Dazini, Nomagaga, Mpumulwane, and surrounding areas. The project represents a significant milestone in the municipality's ongoing mission to provide reliable and sustainable water services to rural communities.

The Mayor further reaffirmed the municipality's commitment to expanding access to clean water through Phase 4 of the project, which will extend services to communities that are not yet connected, including Gxalingenwa, Nkangala, Ndodeni, and Ndlangisa, ensuring that no community is left behind in the district's development agenda.

Beyond infrastructure development, Mayor Nxumalo voiced strong support for government's intensified efforts to combat crime, particularly stock theft, which continues to threaten rural livelihoods. He welcomed the ongoing collaboration with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Municipal Demarcation Board to address municipal boundary-related concerns and encouraged residents





Officials and EPWP beneficiaries at the handover of the Khukhulela Water Scheme Project in Ward 05. Young graduates received Upliftment Certificates after completing training in Steel Fixing, Occupational Health and Safety, Firefighting and Working at Height.

to actively participate in the voter registration weekend scheduled for 1–2 August 2026, emphasising that active civic participation strengthens democracy and ensures communities have a meaningful voice in shaping their future.

A major highlight of the event was the presentation of EPWP Upliftment Certificates to young beneficiaries from across the Harry Gwala District. The graduates successfully completed accredited training in Steel Fixing, Working at Height, SHE Representative, Basic Firefighting, and Occupational Health and Safety.

The accredited training equips participants with practical, industry-recognised skills that will enhance their employability, improve workplace safety

standards, and create pathways to meaningful economic participation while contributing to the development of safer, more resilient communities.

The successful handover of the Khukhulela Water Scheme Project and the recognition of EPWP graduates underscore the Harry Gwala District Municipality's unwavering commitment to delivering sustainable infrastructure, empowering young people through skills development, and strengthening partnerships that drive inclusive socio-economic growth. Through initiatives such as these, the municipality continues to build resilient communities, improve quality of life, and accelerate development across the district.

DISTRICT MAYOR LEADS MADIBA'S 67 MINUTES INITIATIVE, RESTORING HOPE TO THE NTOMBELA FAMILY



Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo and municipal officials during the Mandela Day home restoration for Gogo Thandi Ntombela in Seminary, Ward 04, in Ixopo on the 17th of July 2026.



In a heartfelt tribute to the enduring legacy of former President Nelson Mandela, the Harry Gwala District Municipality, under the leadership of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, dedicated its 67 Minutes of service to restoring hope and dignity to the Ntombela family in Seminary, Ward 04, within the Johannes Phumani Phungula Local Municipality in Ixopo.

The Mandela Day initiative, held on 17 July 2026, saw the Municipality visit the home of 82-year-old Gogo Thandi Hermina Ntombela, who is the primary caregiver to her two grandchildren. Inspired by Madiba's lifelong commitment to selfless service and human dignity, Mayor Nxumalo led a comprehensive home restoration programme aimed at improving the family's living conditions and creating a safer, healthier, and more dignified environment.

Municipal officials and volunteers undertook a range of improvements, including cleaning the property, restoring electrical connections, repairing and plastering damaged walls, and carrying out general maintenance. The initiative transformed the home into a space that reflects the dignity every South African deserves.

Recognising the family's immediate needs, Mayor Nxumalo donated food parcels and presented a school uniform voucher to Gogo Ntombela's eight-year-old grandson, ensuring he can continue his education with pride, confidence, and renewed hope for the future.

Addressing those in attendance, Mayor Nxumalo emphasised that Mandela Day is far more than an annual commemorative event—it is a powerful reminder that leadership is measured by service, compassion, and the willingness to uplift those most in need.

“The greatest tribute we can pay to President Nelson Mandela is to change lives through meaningful action. By extending a helping hand, restoring dignity, and standing with vulnerable families, we keep Madiba's vision of a caring and inclusive society alive.”



"The greatest tribute we can pay to President Nelson Mandela is to change lives through meaningful action. By extending a helping hand, restoring dignity, and standing with vulnerable families, we keep Madiba's vision of a caring and inclusive society alive," he said.

The Mayor thanked the Ntombela family for warmly welcoming the municipal delegation into their home and acknowledged the invaluable contribution of Ms Madondo from the Caritas Roman Catholic Church, who secured the building materials that made the refurbishment possible. He also expressed gratitude to the Department of Agriculture for donating vegetable seedlings and fruit trees to promote household food security and sustainable livelihoods.

Special recognition was given to the Municipality's Infrastructure Services Unit, Strategic Support Office, Environmental Health Services Unit, and Disaster Management Centre, whose dedication, professionalism, and teamwork ensured the successful implementation of the initiative.

The Mandela Day programme stands as a powerful demonstration of the Harry Gwala District Municipality's unwavering commitment to community development, social responsibility, and compassionate governance. It reaffirmed that Madiba's legacy continues to inspire practical acts of kindness that restore hope, strengthen partnerships, and improve the lives of the most vulnerable members of society.

Through initiatives such as these, the Municipality continues to champion the values of service, humanity, and inclusive development, ensuring that no family is left behind in the pursuit of a better life for all.

#MandelaDay2026
#67MinutesForMadiba
#ServingCommunities
#HarryGwalaDistrictMunicipality
#RestoringHope
#LeavingNoOneBehind





District Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo handing over business equipment to 17 MSMEs representing women, youth, and persons with disabilities.



EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS, TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

In a decisive stride towards fostering inclusive economic growth and entrepreneurial excellence, the Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA) successfully hosted the MSMEs Development Programme Business Equipment Handover in Ixopo. The initiative reaffirmed the Agency's unwavering commitment to nurturing local enterprises, empowering emerging entrepreneurs, and unlocking sustainable economic opportunities across the Harry Gwala District.

District Mayor, His Worship Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, presided over the official handover ceremony, presenting essential business equipment to 17 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) representing women, youth, and persons with disabilities from throughout the district. The intervention forms part of the Municipality's broader vision of building an inclusive economy where entrepreneurship serves as a catalyst

for poverty alleviation, job creation, and community development.

Among the beneficiaries were unemployed young people who successfully completed a specialised cellphone repair training programme facilitated by the HGDA during the previous year. Each graduate received a fully equipped professional cellphone repair toolkit, empowering them to establish independent businesses, generate sustainable incomes, and become active contributors to the district's growing township and rural economy.

The occasion brought together a distinguished gathering of stakeholders, including the Chairperson of the HGDA Board, Mr Zweli Baleni, the Chairperson of the Ixopo Chamber of Business, Mr Mphathi Madondo, government officials, business leaders, development partners, aspiring entrepreneurs, and members of



the local community, all united by a shared vision of economic empowerment and enterprise development.

The equipment handover stands as a powerful testament to the HGDA's continued investment in strengthening the small business sector. By providing entrepreneurs with practical tools and productive assets, the Agency is enhancing business competitiveness, improving sustainability, and expanding opportunities for meaningful participation in the local economy. Such strategic interventions not only strengthen individual enterprises but also contribute to building resilient communities capable of driving long-term economic prosperity.

Addressing the beneficiaries, speakers emphasised that the equipment represented more than a financial investment, it symbolised confidence in their potential to become successful business leaders and employers of

the future. Entrepreneurs were encouraged to utilise the resources responsibly while embracing the principles of discipline, accountability, innovation, resilience, and sound financial management. They were reminded that sustainable business success is built through dedication, continuous learning, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

As the Harry Gwala Development Agency continues to champion enterprise development, initiatives such as the MSMEs Development Programme demonstrate the transformative power of investing in local entrepreneurship. By supporting emerging businesses and creating pathways for economic participation, the Agency is laying a firm foundation for a more prosperous, self-reliant, and economically vibrant Harry Gwala District, where small businesses become engines of growth, innovation, and lasting social transformation.

District Communicators reaffirm commitment to ethical government communication ahead of Local Government Elections



Communicators from across the district attending the Quarterly District Communicators Forum at Kokstad Council Chamber ahead of the Local Government Elections.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality recently convened its Quarterly District Communicators Forum at the Kokstad Council Chamber, bringing together communication practitioners from across the district to strengthen intergovernmental collaboration and reaffirm the principles of ethical government communication as preparations intensify for the forthcoming Local Government Elections.

The forum served as a strategic platform to reflect on the constitutional role of municipal communicators during the election period, underscoring the imperative of professionalism, political neutrality and unwavering adherence to the values of public service. Participants reaffirmed that, while communicators serve within politically led institutions, their constitutional mandate is neither to advance nor oppose any political formation, but to provide communities with accurate, factual and timely information that promotes access to municipal services and meaningful participation in local governance.

Deliberations further emphasised the critical importance of safeguarding the credibility and integrity of government communication during a period of heightened political activity. As election campaigns gather momentum, communicators were encouraged to remain ethical, objective and firmly focused on service delivery, ensuring that residents continue to receive reliable, transparent and impartial information irrespective of the prevailing political climate.

The forum also highlighted the indispensable role of government communication in strengthening participatory democracy by fostering informed public engagement and effectively communicating municipal programmes that improve the quality of life of communities throughout the Harry Gwala District.

Welcoming delegates, Greater Kokstad Local Municipality Speaker, Councillor B.K. Nozaza, commended communication practitioners for their unwavering dedication to advancing transparency, accountability and responsive governance. He applauded the increasing visibility of municipal development initiatives across the district through coordinated communication efforts and encouraged communicators to continue striving for excellence, innovation and professionalism in amplifying the positive impact of local government.

The quarterly gathering concluded with a renewed collective commitment to uphold the highest standards of ethical government communication, deepen collaboration among municipalities and ensure that the voice of local government continues to reach every community with integrity, credibility and purpose. As the district approaches the Local Government Elections, communicators reaffirmed their role as trusted custodians of public information, committed to strengthening citizen engagement, promoting informed participation and reinforcing public confidence in local government institutions.

EPWP PARTICIPANTS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME EQUIPS BENEFICIARIES FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



EPWP beneficiaries participating in the Empowerment Programme and 2026/27 Skills Development Plan launch across the four local municipalities.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality has successfully implemented the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Participants Empowerment Programme across its four local municipalities- Johannes Phumani Phungula, uMzimkhulu, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and Greater Kokstad- benefiting a total of 367 participants.

The initiative reaffirmed the Municipality's unwavering commitment to skills development, economic empowerment, and the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities for EPWP beneficiaries.

As part of the programme, participants were introduced to the Municipality's 2026/27 Training, Skills Development and Capacitation Plan, a comprehensive initiative designed to enhance employability, strengthen practical workplace competencies, and prepare participants to pursue entrepreneurial ventures once they exit the EPWP.

In a significant demonstration of its commitment to participant welfare and continuity, the Municipality implemented a Council resolution extending all EPWP contracts that were due to expire on 30 June 2026 for a further twelve months, until 30 June 2027. During the programme, beneficiaries officially received their contract extension letters and were encouraged to take full advantage of the training, mentorship, and personal development opportunities available to them.

The empowerment programme also showcased several inspiring success stories that highlighted the transformative impact of the EPWP on the lives of its participants.

Ms Khunjisiwe Khanyile shared how she had prudently invested her monthly stipend to lay the foundation for a poultry farming enterprise by constructing a chicken coop and saving towards purchasing her first flock. In recognition of her entrepreneurial spirit and determination, the Municipality's Executive Director for Infrastructure, Mr Biyase, pledged to donate 50 broiler chickens to help launch her business.

Ms Nomawethu Jili reflected on how the programme enabled her to obtain a driver's licence while simultaneously supporting her child through high school, opening new opportunities for employment and personal advancement.

Similarly, Mr Khulekani Mhlongo explained how his EPWP income had allowed him to provide for his family, support his children's education, and steadily work towards achieving important personal goals.

These remarkable testimonies underscore that the Expanded Public Works Programme is far more than a temporary employment initiative. It serves as a catalyst for personal growth, economic inclusion, and sustainable development by equipping participants with valuable skills, renewed confidence, and practical opportunities to build self-reliant and prosperous futures.

Through initiatives such as the Participants Empowerment Programme, the Harry Gwala District Municipality continues to demonstrate its commitment to investing in people, fostering entrepreneurship, and creating pathways towards long-term socio-economic transformation for communities across the district.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY UNVEILS DEVELOPMENT-FOCUSED 2026/2027 DRAFT BUDGET



Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo tabling the Draft Budget and MTREF for 2026/2027 during an Open Council Meeting at Ofafa Sheshe Hall.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality has tabled its development-focused Draft Budget and Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) for the 2026/2027 financial year, reaffirming its commitment to improving service delivery and investing in critical infrastructure that will enhance the quality of life for communities across the district.

The draft budget was presented during an Open Council Meeting held at Ofafa Sheshe Hall by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo.

Presenting the budget, Mayor Nxumalo reflected on the progress achieved since the current Council assumed office in November 2021. He highlighted the Municipality's continued efforts to address long-standing water and sanitation challenges, noting that significant investments in infrastructure have improved access to safe and reliable water for thousands of residents.

Among the key projects completed or currently underway are the Emfuleni Creighton Water Scheme, Khukhulela Water Scheme, Centocow Water Scheme, Bhongweni Reservoir Project, Summerfield Water Supply Scheme, Greater Emnqumeni Water Scheme, and the ongoing Kempsdale Dam Project, valued at nearly R200 million.

To further strengthen water security across the district, the Municipality has drilled more than 216 boreholes and procured ten water tanker trucks to improve emergency water distribution to affected communities. In addition, investments in TLB machinery

and operational vehicles are expected to enhance infrastructure maintenance, improve response times, and support efficient service delivery throughout the district.

The Municipality's consolidated budget for the 2026/2027 financial year amounts to R1.076 billion, reflecting a strong focus on infrastructure development and essential service delivery. More than R256 million has been allocated to water infrastructure projects, while nearly R29 million has been earmarked for sanitation interventions. Additional funding will support municipal operations, infrastructure maintenance, community development programmes, and employment creation initiatives.

Mayor Nxumalo also reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to empowering young people through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), which continues to create employment opportunities while supporting community development.

He called on residents to play an active role in protecting public infrastructure from vandalism and theft, emphasising that safeguarding municipal assets is essential to ensuring sustainable development and uninterrupted service delivery.

Concluding his address, Mayor Nxumalo officially tabled the 2026/2027 Draft Budget before Council, reaffirming the Harry Gwala District Municipality's commitment to responsible governance, sustainable development, and the continued improvement of service delivery for all communities within the district.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT UNITES UMZIMKHULU IN CANDLELIGHT TRIBUTE FOR HIV/AIDS AWARENESS



District Mayor Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo leading the candlelight commemoration at New City Sportsfield, Ward 16 uMzimkhulu. Community members, government departments and civil society joined in honouring those lost to HIV/AIDS and promoting testing and treatment.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality hosted a moving Candlelight Commemoration Event at the New City Sportsfield in Ward 16, uMzimkhulu, bringing together government departments, community organisations, and residents to strengthen HIV/AIDS awareness while promoting hope, inclusion, and wellness.

District Mayor Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo led the programme, accompanied by Deputy Mayor Cllr T.N. Jojozi, uMzimkhulu Mayor Cllr S. Mzizi-Msiya, councillors, and municipal officials. Key partners, including the Department of Health, the Department of Social Development, the Harry Gwala Civil Society Forum, Masiphilisa Organisation, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), and other community stakeholders, joined forces to reinforce the shared commitment to ending HIV-related stigma and supporting those affected by the pandemic.

Welcoming attendees, Mayor Mzizi-Msiya encouraged residents to prioritise their health by undergoing regular HIV testing and medical check-ups, while remaining active participants in community development and democratic processes. Representatives from partner organisations emphasised the importance of achieving an AIDS-free generation by 2030 and meeting the global 95-95-95 HIV targets through increased testing, timely treatment, and sustained care.

A representative of People Living with HIV delivered a heartfelt message calling for compassion, acceptance, and respect, reminding the community that stigma and discrimination remain among the greatest barriers to effective HIV prevention, treatment, and long-term care.

Delivering the keynote address, District Mayor Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo urged residents to know their HIV status, seek treatment without delay when necessary, and support those living with HIV. He also acknowledged the unwavering commitment of healthcare workers, civil society organisations, and community volunteers who continue to provide essential services and support across the district.

The Mayor further encouraged residents to take advantage of government initiatives such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), while remaining actively engaged in democratic processes that contribute to community development.

The event concluded with a solemn candlelight tribute in honour of those who have lost their lives to HIV/AIDS. As candles illuminated the evening, the ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the importance of unity, compassion, and collective action in the fight against HIV/AIDS, reaffirming the Harry Gwala District Municipality's commitment to building healthier, more inclusive, and caring communities for all.



EXCELLENCE DISCOVERED FROM AFAR: **HGDM WELCOMES NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In its unwavering pursuit of clean governance, sound financial management, and the achievement of a clean audit, the Harry Gwala District Municipality has strengthened its leadership by appointing one of local government's most accomplished financial professionals, Themba Bongani Mnguni, as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Bringing with him more than 22 years of distinguished experience in local government finance, Mnguni joins the municipality with a proven track record of financial stewardship, strategic leadership, and institutional excellence.

His appointment perfectly reflects the timeless isiZulu proverb, "Induku enhle igawulwa ezizweni" - literally translated as "A good stick is cut from another village." The proverb speaks to a profound truth: true excellence is often discovered beyond familiar borders.

Mnguni embodies this wisdom. Although he served at the highly acclaimed Midvaal Local Municipality, situated more than 500 kilometres from Ixopo, he answered the call to serve the people of Harry Gwala District. His decision to join the municipality demonstrates that exceptional leadership knows no geographical boundaries and that talent is drawn to institutions with a compelling vision for excellence.

Midvaal Municipality is widely recognised as one of South Africa's best-performing municipalities, earning a reputation for sound governance, financial sustainability, and administrative excellence, including recognition by Africa Ratings for its strong financial performance.

Mnguni now brings this wealth of experience and best practice to Harry Gwala District Municipality as it continues to strengthen financial governance and institutional performance.

Like many accomplished public servants, Mnguni's journey began with humble beginnings. He entered local government as an intern and steadily rose through the ranks, earning promotions into senior leadership positions through dedication, competence, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. His professional journey is a testament to perseverance, continuous learning, and exemplary public service.

His appointment signals yet another strategic step in Harry Gwala District Municipality's commitment to building a capable administration that delivers sound financial management, strengthens accountability, and advances its vision of becoming a municipality defined by excellence, transparency, and sustainable service.



delivery.

Despite having served in the position for less than five months, Mnguni has already established himself as a disciplined and results-driven leader who places a premium on professionalism and accountability. He is unapologetic in his stance against a culture of tardiness, believing that respect for time is the foundation upon which organisational excellence is built.

"Punctuality is not merely a personal habit; it is a reflection of discipline, commitment, and respect for others. A culture of lateness is difficult to eradicate, but it is a challenge we must confront collectively- and one we are determined to overcome," he said.

Mnguni believes that no objective is beyond reach when pursued with determination, discipline and the right leadership. While he is confident that the municipality can attain a clean audit, he insists that such an achievement must be rooted in tangible improvements in service delivery rather than merely ensuring compliance on paper.

"When we achieve a clean audit, I believe it should speak to service delivery. It should reflect the real impact we are making in the lives of our communities, not simply that our books are in order," he said.

To realise this vision, Mnguni said the municipality has already begun strengthening its governance structures through intensive training of finance committees and the establishment of specialised war rooms to identify and address the underlying causes of irregular expenditure.

Despite existing vacancies in several critical positions, he believes the municipality cannot afford to lose momentum.

"While there are gaps in key positions, we must continue investing in the people we have. Building their skills and capacity is essential if we are to achieve sustainable financial management," he said.

A key pillar of his strategy is digital transformation. Mnguni revealed that the municipality has embarked on automating and streamlining financial processes, reducing turnaround times from several days to just a few minutes.

"Processes that previously took four days should now take no more than five minutes. Automation creates transparency and accountability because it becomes easy to identify where delays occur and who is responsible," he explained.

He emphasised that sustainable financial governance depends on recruiting and developing competent professionals while strengthening

Supply Chain Management (SCM) systems.

Mnguni is determined to eliminate irregular expenditure by addressing its root causes rather than merely managing its consequences.

"Irregular expenditure must be resolved by fixing weaknesses within SCM processes, ensuring that key positions are filled with suitably qualified personnel, and

strengthening internal controls. I do not want to see any new irregular expenditure being incurred."

He further stressed that governance committees must be properly constituted, adequately trained and empowered to execute their oversight responsibilities effectively.

A CAREER BUILT ON FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP

Mnguni brings more than two decades of local government experience to his new role. His career began at uMlalazi Municipality, where he served as a Budget Officer following the introduction of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) in 2004. In this capacity, he was responsible for preparing municipal budgets in support of the Chief Financial Officer.

Following the implementation of the Municipal Property Rates Act, he was promoted to Senior Manager for Revenue. He later assumed responsibility for Expenditure, Supply Chain Management, Payroll and Information Technology, at a time when the IT function was housed within the Finance Department. During this period, he successfully led the implementation of several strategic projects, demonstrating practical leadership beyond his formal area of expertise.

His career later took him to Midvaal Local Municipality, where he served as Director for Expenditure and Supply Chain Management, further expanding his expertise in municipal financial administration.

With more than 22 years of experience in local government finance, governance and supply chain management, Mnguni has built a reputation for driving institutional reform, strengthening financial controls and promoting accountable governance.

Academically, he holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting from the University of Zululand. He has also completed the Municipal Minimum Competency Programme through the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and an Executive Management Programme at Regenesys Business School, equipping him with both technical expertise and strategic leadership skills.



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

QUARTERLY REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2026



BUILDING SAFER AND MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The Harry Gwala District Municipality (HGDM) Disaster Management Centre continued to play a pivotal role in safeguarding communities during the fourth quarter through coordinated emergency response, disaster risk reduction, and public awareness initiatives. Guided by the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), the Centre worked closely with all four local municipalities and key stakeholders to minimise the impact of disasters while strengthening community resilience.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The District remained vulnerable to a range of natural and human-induced disasters, including heavy rainfall, flooding, strong winds, hailstorms, lightning, snowfall, veld and structural fires, drownings, and road traffic accidents. Through the Early Warning System provided by the South African Weather Service (SAWS) and the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, timely weather alerts were shared with councillors, ward committees, Community Development Workers (CDWs), traditional leaders, and emergency response teams to ensure communities were prepared for severe weather conditions.

During the reporting period, Disaster Management teams responded promptly to numerous incidents across the district. Emergency relief was provided

to affected households through the distribution of blankets, food parcels, plastic sheeting, mattresses, and emergency relief kits.

DISASTER STATISTICS

The impact of disasters was experienced across all four local municipalities—Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Greater Kokstad, uMzimkhulu, and Johannes Phumani Phungula.

Month	Incidents	Households Affected	People Impacted
April 2026	25	69	373
May 2026	13	128	628
June 2026	24	30	130

One of the most significant incidents occurred in May 2026, when strong winds severely damaged Khayelitsha Primary School in Ward 4, uMzimkhulu, blowing off the school's roof. The District also coordinated emergency responses to road accidents along the R56 and R617 routes, working alongside local Fire and Rescue Services.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Municipality continued to prioritise disaster



prevention through community education and awareness campaigns. Residents were empowered with information on disaster preparedness, emergency response, and safety measures aimed at reducing risks before disasters occur.

As part of the District's wildfire prevention programme, communities received fire beaters and knapsack sprayers to assist in preventing and suppressing veld and structural fires.

Disaster Management Awareness Campaigns were successfully conducted in:

- Johannes Phumani Phungula Local Municipality – Ward 14 (Msomi Traditional Authority)
- uMzimkhulu Local Municipality – Ward 18 (Mmisa Hall)
- Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality – Ward 11 (Emangwaneni)

INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A major milestone during the quarter was the installation of 20 lightning conductors across the district. Each of the four local municipalities received five lightning protection systems, strategically installed in communities vulnerable to lightning strikes. This initiative forms part of the District's ongoing Disaster Risk Reduction Programme to protect lives and critical infrastructure.

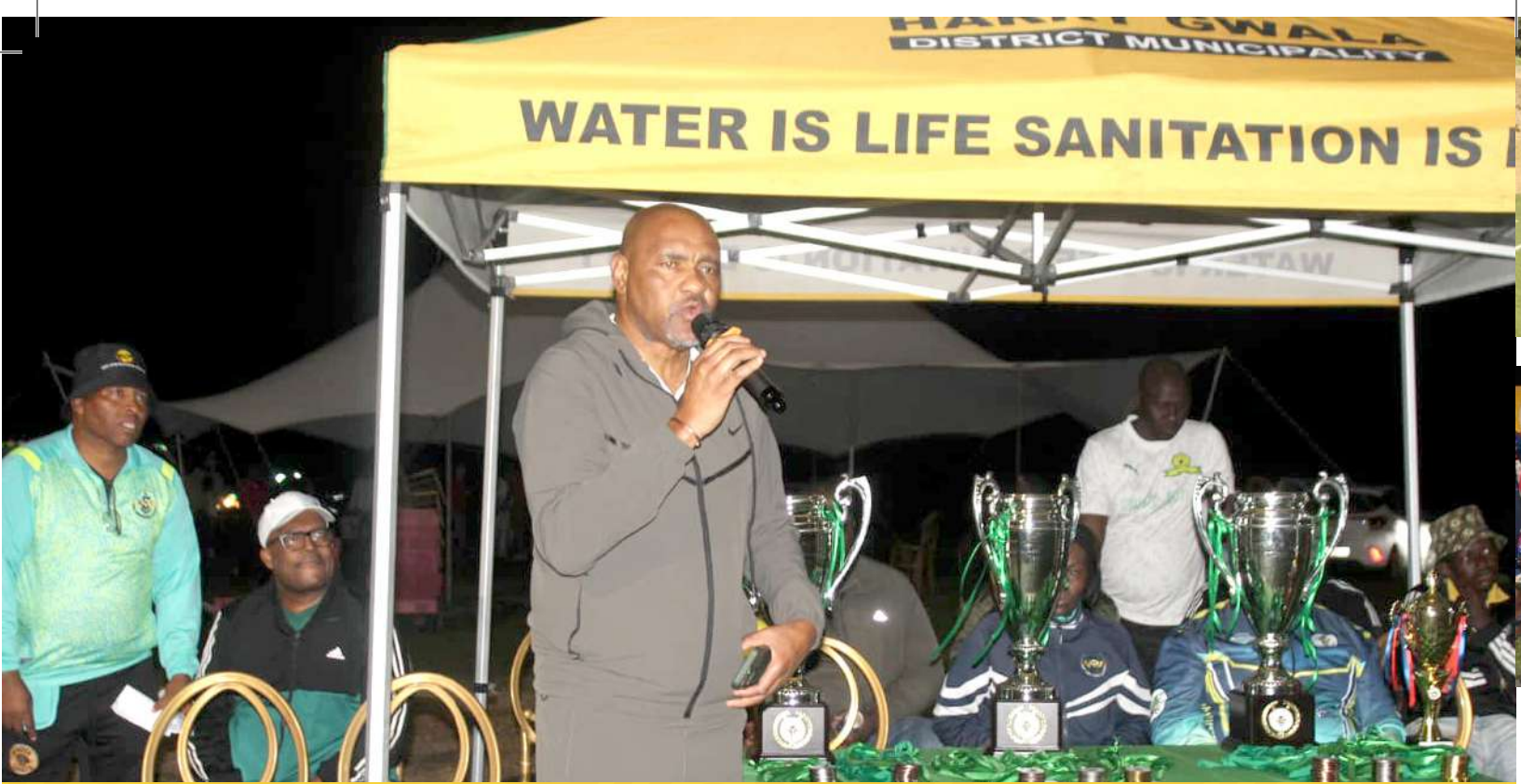
In Greater Kokstad Local Municipality, the District completed the construction of a Temporary Residential Unit (TRU) in Thuthukane, Ward 6, providing emergency accommodation to families displaced by disasters.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Effective disaster management relies on strong partnerships. Throughout the quarter, the Disaster Management Centre collaborated with Local Municipalities, the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, the Departments of Human Settlements, Transport, Social Development, Agriculture and Rural Development, Municipal Health Services, SASSA, Ward Councillors, Traditional Leaders, and the uMzimkhulu Red Cross to coordinate emergency responses and humanitarian assistance.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Harry Gwala District Municipality remains committed to protecting lives, infrastructure, and livelihoods through proactive disaster risk management, rapid emergency response, and sustained public education. By strengthening preparedness and fostering collaboration, the District Disaster Management Centre continues to build resilient communities capable of responding effectively to future disasters.



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MAYORAL CUP 2026 FINALS SHOWCASE SPORTING EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT





Champions and participants at the 2026 Harry Gwala District Mayoral Cup Finals held at Jeffrey Zungu Sports Field in Ixopo. The tournament brought together young athletes from the district's four local municipalities to showcase sporting excellence and youth empowerment.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality successfully hosted the 2026 Harry Gwala District Mayoral Cup Finals at the Jeffrey Zungu Sports Field in Ixopo, bringing together talented young athletes from the District's four local municipalities in a vibrant celebration of sporting excellence, unity, and youth empowerment.

The tournament delivered a thrilling display of football and netball, with teams demonstrating exceptional talent, resilience, discipline, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. More than a sporting event, the Mayoral Cup has become a flagship platform for identifying and nurturing emerging talent while fostering healthy lifestyles, social cohesion, and community pride among the youth of the Harry Gwala District.

The football competition produced memorable performances across all divisions. In the Open Men's Football category, Mighty Movers from the Johannesburg Phumani Phungula Local Municipality were crowned champions following an impressive campaign. The uMzimkhulu Local Municipality secured the Under-20 Football title, while Crystal City from the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality claimed victory in the Women's Football final.

In netball, the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality reaffirmed its sporting dominance by capturing both the Under-19 and Open Netball championships, showcasing exceptional teamwork, skill, and determination.

Addressing players, coaches, officials, and supporters during the closing ceremony, His

Worship the Executive Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, congratulated every participating team for their unwavering commitment, resilience, and exemplary display of sportsmanship. He praised the athletes for embracing sport as a powerful instrument for personal development, discipline, leadership, teamwork, and healthy living.

The Mayor reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to creating opportunities that empower young people through sport, recognising athletics as a powerful catalyst for social transformation, talent development, and nation-building. He further encouraged young people to become active and responsible citizens by participating in democratic processes and registering to vote in the forthcoming Local Government Elections.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the winning teams and expresses sincere appreciation to the four local municipalities, coaches, technical officials, organising committees, volunteers, supporters, and sponsors whose collective efforts ensured the outstanding success of the 2026 Harry Gwala District Mayoral Cup.

As the final whistle marked the conclusion of another successful tournament, it also reaffirmed the Municipality's unwavering vision of building stronger communities through sport. By investing in youth development, nurturing sporting talent, and creating opportunities for young people to excel, the Harry Gwala District Municipality continues to strengthen social cohesion, inspire future champions, and build healthier, more resilient communities across the District.





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