



2022

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1



- Harry Gwala District Municipality
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www.harrygwaladm.gov.za

Together we Deliver and Grow

VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

By 2030 Harry Gwala District Municipality will be a leading water services provider in the KZN Province with its communities benefitting from a vibrant agriculture and tourism sector.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CORE VALUES

Transparency • Accountability • Consultation • Commitment and Honesty



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EDITORIAL NOTE

Keeping you updated



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza, Communications Manager

It is my pleasure to welcome you, our readers, to this publication of the Harry Gwala District Municipality (HGDM).

It is our priority to provide you with information on what is happening in our District and also to keep you informed on service delivery.

I would like to introduce our Public Relations Officer, Miss Nontuthuko Ngubane who has joined us recently. We hope that with her as a new member of the communication team we will continue to provide you with stories of interest, that are newsworthy to both our District's urban and rural areas.

KwaZulu-Natal has recently encountered a very challenging period, with the recent floods in April, which left devastating effects. More than 400 people died, people lost their homes and infrastructure was severely affected.

On the 2nd, 9th to the 12th of April 2022, the Harry Gwala District Municipality experienced heavy rains, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning which resulted in flooding in some areas. The following municipalities were affected, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Greater Kokstad, uBuhlebezwe, and UMzimkhulu Local Municipalities.

The Disaster units in Harry Gwala District and Disaster management teams in the above-mentioned local municipalities responded by providing emergency assistance to the families affected.

Houses were flooded, walls collapsed in certain instances, some bridges and roads could not be accessed as a result of the floods. Indeed it has been a difficult time. What compounded this challenging period is the reality that we have not fully recovered from the July 2021 unrest and Covid-19.

On that note, condolences to those families who were affected by the floods. We also applaud the men and women (Police, Nurses, Fire fighters, Traffic Police and others), for

their efforts in ensuring that community members are safe during this time.

We have had exciting programmes as the Municipality in the recent past, which include the celebration of Human Right Day in Ixopo at the Peace Initiative Hall, Eastern Seaboard Development Imbizo at Kokstad, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality's 2022 Local Economic Development, Tourism and Investment Summit at Sani Pass, which was a two-day event. The District Development Model (DDM) event was led by Minister Champion Mr Mondli Gungubele, who is the Minister in the Presidency. The Minister was impressed with the overall performance of the District Municipality and the sister municipalities with regards to the provision of service delivery to the citizens of the district.

Our appreciation is extended to the community of Harry Gwala as a whole for being patient with us during the emergency period when we experienced water supply interruptions due to a combination of factors, with maintenance being the major one. You are kindly reminded to make use of the customer care for any assistance required regarding the supply of water.

In March 2022 we embarked on a customer service roadshow in UMzimkhulu to reach out to the public, particularly consumers who are unable to visit our municipal offices during the week. We will continue to have such roadshows where customers are given the opportunity to raise their utility service-related queries such as application for amnesty, updating of information, registration as indigent, debt payment arrangements, and reporting of water services queries. I do hope you will be informed when reading this issue, we have put together. Please continue to engage us on our social media platforms, the HGDM website and other communication channels.



MISS NONTUTHUKO NGUBANE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)



MR MQONDISI DUMA
COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

MAYOR'S FOREWORD

Message from the Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor

WITH this edition of the fourth quarter of the 2021/ 2022 financial year, we once again take this opportunity to apologise for any mishap that has led to the interruptions of the production of this important tool of communication from the municipality to our communities. We have passed very important months when we celebrated the Human Rights Month and the Freedom Month, which is March and April respectively. Our KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Sihle Zikalala has stressed during the Human Rights Month that we need to be a leading province in promoting Human Rights by respecting each other's rights regardless of the colour or race.

We commemorate and celebrate Freedom Day in April, a day where we were all free from the injustices of apartheid in South Africa. This is a day where our Constitution promoted equality regardless of colour or race and land redistribution as it is a known fact that a big chunk of the land in this country is still in the hands of the minority.

Job creation and landlessness are the priority matters on our agenda that we need to tackle because they are a solution to address poverty in our District as we are amongst the ten poverty stricken districts in the country.

So, the struggle of our freedom fighters such as Dr Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Charlotte Maxeke, Chris Hani, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Albertina Sisulu, Lillian Ngoyi and many others should reap nothing but the imbetterment of the lives of the marginalised communities.

This is part of the reasons why we have embraced the District Development Model (DDM) launched by the country's President Cyril Ramaphosa that seeks to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery and is a centre of economic development including job creation.

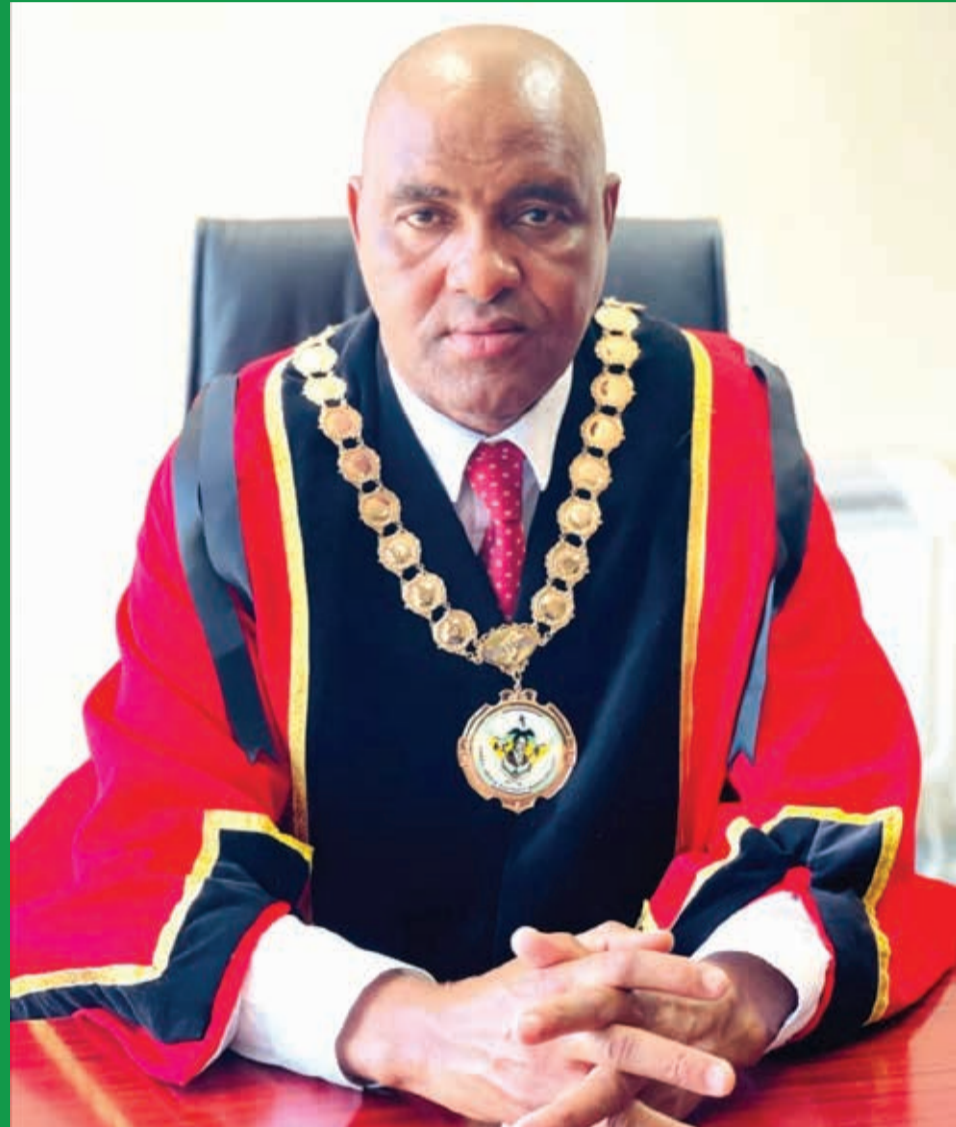
Evidence to that was when our political champion and Minister in the Presidency, Mondli Gungubele visited our District accompanied by other officials to showcase the DDM agenda, which also corresponded with a number of massive projects in the pipeline intended to bring a better life for all in our District.

The most significant part of the DDM is that it aims at improving dearly the lives of rural communities to reach a stage where they move to urban areas by choice not because they are going there to seek opportunities.

However, implementing the above mentioned might not be moving as fast as we all intend it to be but there is light at the end of the tunnel and we will achieve the goals and the vision of our footprints.

Under the difficult times we live in due to the strain of Covid-19, the recent floods (in December 2021 and in April 2022) and the increased rate of unemployment, it is important that we promote food security as a District that is endowed in agriculture to ensure that we revive the one-home one-garden programme in order for us to eat nutritious food to strengthen our bodies against the diseases that seek to take hold of our lives. Each and every year we hold Agricultural Summits to encourage the youth to find the right channels to enter into the agricultural sector, which we want in turn to benefit our people by creating permanent jobs. As the District we must spearhead this agenda and ensure that it is considered by all our sister municipalities and by doing that we will ensure that our communities do not go hungry.

As local government we need to be able to address issues that are confronting our communities very vigorously. These



His Worship the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

“As local government we need to be able to address issues that are confronting our communities very vigorously. These issues be tackle head on and support the respective sector departments in dealing with social ills, triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty.”



issues must be tackle head on and support the respective sector departments that deal with them are social ills, triple challenges of unemployment inequality and poverty. As local government we must strive to bring back hope of employment. We need to resuscitate all stakeholders in our District to create jobs and make sure that even farms that lie redundant produce so that we will not have a scourge of high food prices.

We will be able to bridge the gap between inequality, unemployment and poverty if we also ensure that our local economic development programmes are innovative and inclusive as well. We need to beam as spotlight on opportunities in agriculture, transportation, tourism and on how best we can attract investors by posturing our District's unique features

To be more focused on the development of the country since we have seen local government elections wherein all Mayors were required to have prerequisite qualifications, I am appealing to all councillors to improve on academically. Those without matric must strive to achieve this qualification and a Diploma. Those with Diploma try to achieve a Degree. This doe not only apply to politicians but also the youth. They need to educate themselves so that they can access opportunities.

“As a municipality we have had a couple of strategic planning sessions to work on issues of service delivery and some of the issues raised during the interview that require implementation will be attended to.”

Our country needs educated people, because if we are educated we are able to be innovative and think outside the box.

We also need to teach communities that they must pay for the services rendered by municipalities. The reality is that there are those that can afford but simply refusing to pay. We must analyse this together. if people are able to afford DSTV, what will stop them from paying for municipal services. Paying for municipal services provides the municipality with a better opportunity of advancing the municipality to do more for those who have not acquired the services in the form of water, sanitation, electricity.

In my 100 days in office since being inaugurated on the 26th November 2021, I was able to engage with community members in a radio interview on Gagasi FM (Indaba with Alex), all the challenges and suggestions mentioned were noted. As a municipality we have had a couple of strategic planning sessions to work on issues of service delivery and some of the issues raised during the interview that require implementation will be attended to.

The visit from the Minister in the Presidency of South Africa, Mr Mondli Gungubele in April 2 and 3 2022, made us realise the amount of work we have done but also on how much more we need to do to ensure that we provide service delivery to the communities and Gungubele was mostly excited and enthusiastic about the hard work put in by municipal officials working on different sites which were visited in uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality, Greater Kokstad Local Municipality and UMzimkhulu Local Municipality. We appreciate all that hard work and effort.

Thank You.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD

“We strive to work hard in meeting our commitments”



Mrs A. N. Dlamini, Municipal Manager

WELCOME to our publication, of the Harry Gwala District Newsletter within the financial year 2021/2022. I wish to thank our communities and readers for creating an enabling situation and opportunity to communicate our municipal service delivery objectives and the overall local government agenda. We value the continued support from our readers who have shown a vested interest in our publications and we are proud to inform you of all our latest developments, events, projects and programmes.

Our reputation is our most treasured asset and the foundation on which we have built our District Municipality. In protecting and improving it, we strive to work hard in meeting our commitments to effectively deliver water and sanitation to our communities. By understanding and embracing municipal business, the municipal vision, project objectives and goals, stronger governance relationships will be built and yield long term and lasting results. I would like to take a brief moment to reflect on a few of our highlights as the District Municipality, most of which are entailed in the current publication that, feature District events and Municipal programmes.

The advent of the new Council

The Inauguration of the new Council took place on the 26th of November 2021. We have managed to welcome and successfully embrace our Council and Traditional Leaders. We have already held a number of In-house Intensive Council Induction training sessions with the assistance of COGTA and SALGA as well as hosting Council Strategic planning sessions to provide Council with the necessary capacity on various issues of governance and finance. Our administration is committed to working diligently in achieving our constitutional mandate and as Harry Gwala District Municipality, we continue to deal with service delivery objectives, primarily being the provisioning of water and sanitation to our communities, despite the current challenges of inclement weather conditions that are facing the entire KZN province. The Water Services Department working closely with Infrastructure Services and Disaster Management, is striving to combat the non-availability of

water due to disruptive rainy conditions, by implementing contingency measures so that water is readily available to our communities. A common principle of dedication and commitment is advocated by our primary and collective responsibility to continuously identify challenges that may impede progress towards accelerating service delivery.

As a District we are confident in communicating our Audit Opinion result as expressed by the Auditor-General which was unqualified with matters of emphasis. It is hoped that with a lot of hard work and an improvement of the overall performance of the District, such an opinion will change into becoming a clean audit in the up and coming financial years.

As a Water Services Authority the Water Services Department is always striving to plan and come up with new and innovative ideas that are geared towards providing clean water to all our communities. Water Services continuously develops business plans in order to improve the status of water and its availability within the District.

The Department of Infrastructure continues to ensure that projects that will enhance the availability of water are monitored from the inception stage to stages of completion. Most infrastructure projects are multi-year in nature and it is hoped and envisaged that upon completion, they will result in a complete change in the lives of the residents of Harry Gwala regarding the overall and complete availability of water to all communities.

Our District also prides itself on the availability of Departments with their Departmental Heads who continue to fulfil their Departmental mandates as prescribed by the Integrated Development Plan and the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan. The Corporate Services Department continues to implement programmes such as the Wellness Programme which benefits both the employees and the employer to ensure that the employment component remains healthy and intellectually fit to tackle programmes and projects that require productive municipal implementation.

In closing, I would like to plead with our communities to remain safe and wary of the current conditions of inclement weather.

I thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



MR. MTHETHUNZIMA MKATU
Chief Financial Officer



MR DAVID BHEKI MAKWAKWA
Infrastructure Services



MISS. NEZISWA LUNGWENGWE
Corporate Services



MRS. THOBILE THELMA THIYANE-MAGAQA
Social Services and Development Planning



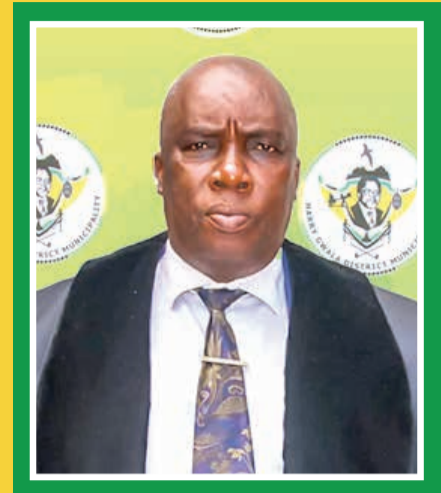
MR DUMISANI SANDILE GQIBA
Water Services



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



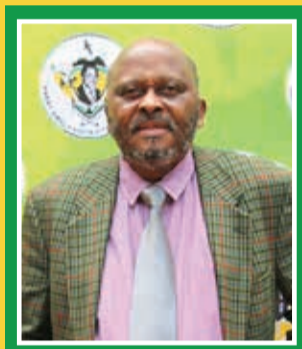
**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
CLLR. Z.D. NXUMALO**



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



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



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



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



**EXCO MEMBER
CLLR. Z. TSHANGASE**



CLLR. Z.M NGIDI



CLLR. Z.R TSHAZI



CLLR. R RAMATLAPENG



CLLR. P.N DAMOYI



CLLR. P.K MEMELA



CLLR. N.W DLADLA



CLLR. N.R MTSHALI



CLLR. N.H ZACA



CLLR. N.H MALIMELA



CLLR. N MDA



CLLR. N DLAMINI



CLLR. Z.P DLAMINI



CLLR. H.V MSOMI



CLLR. H.A LUKHOZI



CLLR. B.R MEMELA



CLLR. B.L MARNCE



CLLR. B SIBENI



CLLR. B KESWA

TRADITIONAL LEADERS



INKOSI V.V ZIMEMA



INKOSI M.S.I ZULU



Minister in the Presidency Mondli Gungubele visited sites in the Harry Gwala District Municipality, accompanied by the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, and other officials.

Long-term vision leaving an incredible mark

The Harry Gwala District leadership is more than capable of taking the Region to new frontiers.... says Minister in the Presidency.

THE Minister in the Presidency, Mondli Gungubele is confident that the Harry Gwala District Municipality is amongst the few municipalities in the country that has a clear mandate and a roadmap to better the lives of the rural communities especially under the current leadership.

Gungubele spoke exclusively after his recent visit to the Harry Gwala District, introductory event Minister Gungubele who is the new political champion of the District. He replaces the Minister in the Presidency, Jackson Mthembu in the role of political champion.

Minister Gungubele stressed that the kind of infrastructural development he has witnessed has made him confident that the current leadership has a clear long-term vision of leaving an indelible mark for future generations to come.

“I just came here to introduce myself to the Mayors within the District and I will henceforth be working directly with them but to my surprise I was greeted with good news

that out of the efforts and promises we make through sending messages of hope to the nation, all of that becomes a reality here...., said Gungubele”

He said this is according to infrastructural projects and investments he witnessed in uBuhlebezwe, Greater Kokstad and uMzimkhulu municipalities that would sustain the revenue of these municipalities without having to depend on other spheres of government for grants that have been shrunk due to the economic crisis facing the country.

He said he has no doubt that the mission of the municipality to become a leader in the provision of improved service delivery will be successful.

He added that district’s vision the provision of water, tourism and agriculture will be realised.

During his visit, he (Gungubele) was warmly welcomed by the District Mayoral delegation led by the District Mayor Councillor, Zamokwakhe Nxumalo, which included the Mayors from the family of municipalities, as well as officials and relevant stakeholders.

This is part of the District Development Model (DDM) launched by the country’s President Cyril Ramaphosa, which is a Direct link to the Regional, Provincial and National Government with the aim of fast-tracking service delivery and finding permanent solutions to priority challenges. It also aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery as a centre of economic development including job creation.

It is further a District-based inter-governmental and



Walkabout in a site in Kokstad

multi-sectoral service delivery approach whose aim is to ensure that there is coherence, consistency and continuity in the relationship between all spheres of government in terms of service delivery.

Minister Gungubele visited the R 600 million construction site of the Bulwer Dam which is currently underway that will supply the whole District and other parts of Musa Dladla and South Coast regions; a construction of more than 350 community residential units in Ixopo and Kokstad for the middle class, the N2 R560 million Kokstad interchange, R 80 million under- construction electricity power station, the Harry Gwala Sports Centre in Umzimkhulu and many more.

The Minister in the Presidency also stated that the COVID-19 pandemic remains a challenge to many countries and South Africa is no different. He said government continues to encourage citizens to vaccinate and to protect themselves against contracting the COVID-19 virus and

ultimately falling ill.

It is for this reason that on the last leg of the two day programme, Minister Gungubele and the District Mayor Nxumalo visited a local church to conduct a vaccination roll-out awareness session. In his address to the congregants, the Minister urged them to vaccinate in order to protect themselves and their loved ones.

“Responding to the service delivery needs of the people of South Africa remains at the core of this government and we will do everything in our ability to ensure that our people receive the services that they deserve”, said Gungubele.

Mayor Nxumalo, said this visit was necessary so that they can continuously monitor the service delivery projects that are being implemented in the area as part of the District Development Model (DDM) to see how far they are and how local, provincial and national government can work together to make sure projects get completed on time.



Leadership conducting oversight



GREEN DROP ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES FOR 2021/22

MUNICIPALITIES in South Africa face many challenges in providing effective water services to consumers, especially in the management of waste water treatment plants (WWTPs) and Harry Gwala District Municipality is no exception. One of the regulatory approaches that gained significant momentum in South Africa is the incentive-based regulation, which was introduced in September 2008. The concept was defined by two programmes: the Blue Drop Certification Programme for Drinking Water Quality Management Regulation and the Green Drop Certification Programme for Waste water Quality Management Regulation.

The Green Drop process measures and compares the results of the performance of water services authorities and their providers via a standardised scorecard, and subsequently rewards or penalizes the municipality upon evidence of their excellence or failures according to the minimum standards or requirements that have been defined. The Green Drop certification strategy revolves around the identification of mediocre performing municipalities, which consequently corrects identified shortcomings.

While the Green Drop assessment focuses on the entire business of the municipal waste water services, risk analysis focuses specifically on the waste water treatment function. This allows the regulator to have insight into the treatment component of the municipal business, which is one of the high-risk components within the production chain.

Risk-based regulation allows the municipality to identify and prioritise the critical risk areas within its waste water treatment process and to take corrective measures to abate them. Risk analysis is used by the regulator to identify, quantify and manage the corresponding risks according to their potential impact on the water resource and to ensure a prioritised and targeted regulation of high-risk municipalities.

Harry Gwala District Municipality (HGDM) was subjected to the Green Drop Assessment from the 8th to the 10th of September 2021. The first two days were allocated for assessment of all HGDM Waste water Treatment Works on the IRIS system and the third day was for a physical audit. For physical assessment/audit, the assessor nominated Kokstad WWTW. The municipality later received an invite to a

virtual Confirmation Session whereby the Assessor confirms all the documentation received during the assessment and documents that were uploaded on IRIS. This session took place on the 19th of November 2021.

Water Services Authority Municipalities and Institutions receive Green Drop status when they achieve scores of 90% or higher, against stringent Green drop assessment requirements. Green Drop scores are given per individual waste water system within the municipal area for the following:

- 1) Process control, maintenance and management skills;
- 2) Waste water quality monitoring;
- 3) Credibility of waste water sampling and analysis;
- 4) Submission of waste water quality results;
- 5) Waste water quality compliance;
- 6) Management of waste water quality failures;
- 7) Storm-water and water demand management;
- 8) By-laws;
- 9) Capacity and facility to reticulate and treat waste water;
- 10) Publication of waste water quality performance;
- 11) Waste water asset management.

The water Services department in the Harry Gwala District Municipality is responsible for water services compliance and monitoring as such it took the lead in coordinating the Water Services Authority audits/assessments. However, all departments within the institution had a unique role to play in ensuring that the outcomes of the assessments are not detrimental to the Water Services Authority status of HGDM.

HGDM has managed to keep the Water Services Authority status by scoring 64% during the 2021 GDS Assessment. These results were announced on Friday the 1st of April 2022 by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu in a virtual gathering. It is important to note that the GDS score has decreased from the previous 2013 score which was 67%. Even though there is a decrease of 3% and still does not have a Green Drop Certificate, HGDM has kept its WSA status and does not have a Directive or Disqualifier, unlike other KZN WSAs and WSI.

Summary report from DWS and a full report can be downloaded from the DWS website: www.dws.gov.za



Report on water conservation, health & hygiene, and vandalism

CUSTOMER Care strives to create a society that is aware of water as a limited and essential resource. As such this division within the Harry Gwala District Municipality has embarked on an ongoing programme aimed at creating awareness of Water conservation, health hygiene, and advocating against water infrastructure vandalism. As the WSA one of the key functions is to educate communities about the importance of health and hygiene, water conservation, and anti vandalism of water infrastructure.

The Customer Care unit conducted awareness campaigns for the communities of Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and uBuhlebezwe Local Municipalities. Customer Care educates the communities of Harry Gwala to take responsibility and own their infrastructure to make sure that they always have water at all times and that the vandalism of the water schemes is curbed. Awareness also includes the processes and procedures that customers and communities should take in reporting burst pipes, damaged taps, and sewer spillages. With the complaints logged into a register with the Customer Care Unit, it becomes easy to plan awareness campaigns for the areas that have got the most complaints in terms of vandalism and water leaks related issues.

Health and Hygiene

Health and hygiene awareness is conducted to promote ways of using sanitation infrastructure correctly, whether its VIP toilets or water borne systems. Health and hygiene awareness is also embarked on to curb the spread of diseases caused by the unhealthy environment, such as dumping waste in undesignated areas. This is a dangerous precedent as when there are floods waste travels and blocks sewer and

water lines. This also leads to pipe bursts and sewer spillages. Communities are taught to refrain from using magazines, and newspapers as wipes when using the toilets and from disposing of sanitary towels, pampers, and any other form of diapers in their toilets. These foreign objects block the sewer lines and they compromise the lifespan of VIP Toilets.

Water Conservation and Vandalism

Communities were educated about the importance of conserving water, as it is a scarce resource. Communities use water daily therefore it should be used sparingly so that it can be saved for future generations. Communities were given tips on how to use water sparingly at household levels. It was emphasized that communities have a responsibility to report water if the service is interrupted or when there a burst pipes and leaking taps. The communities were urged not to vandalize the water infrastructure built for them. Electricity cable theft, solar panel, and static tanks and taps affecting the provision of water services were raised with communities. This is for their benefit as everyone has a responsibility to use water sparingly since our district is amongst those places that do not have enough water.

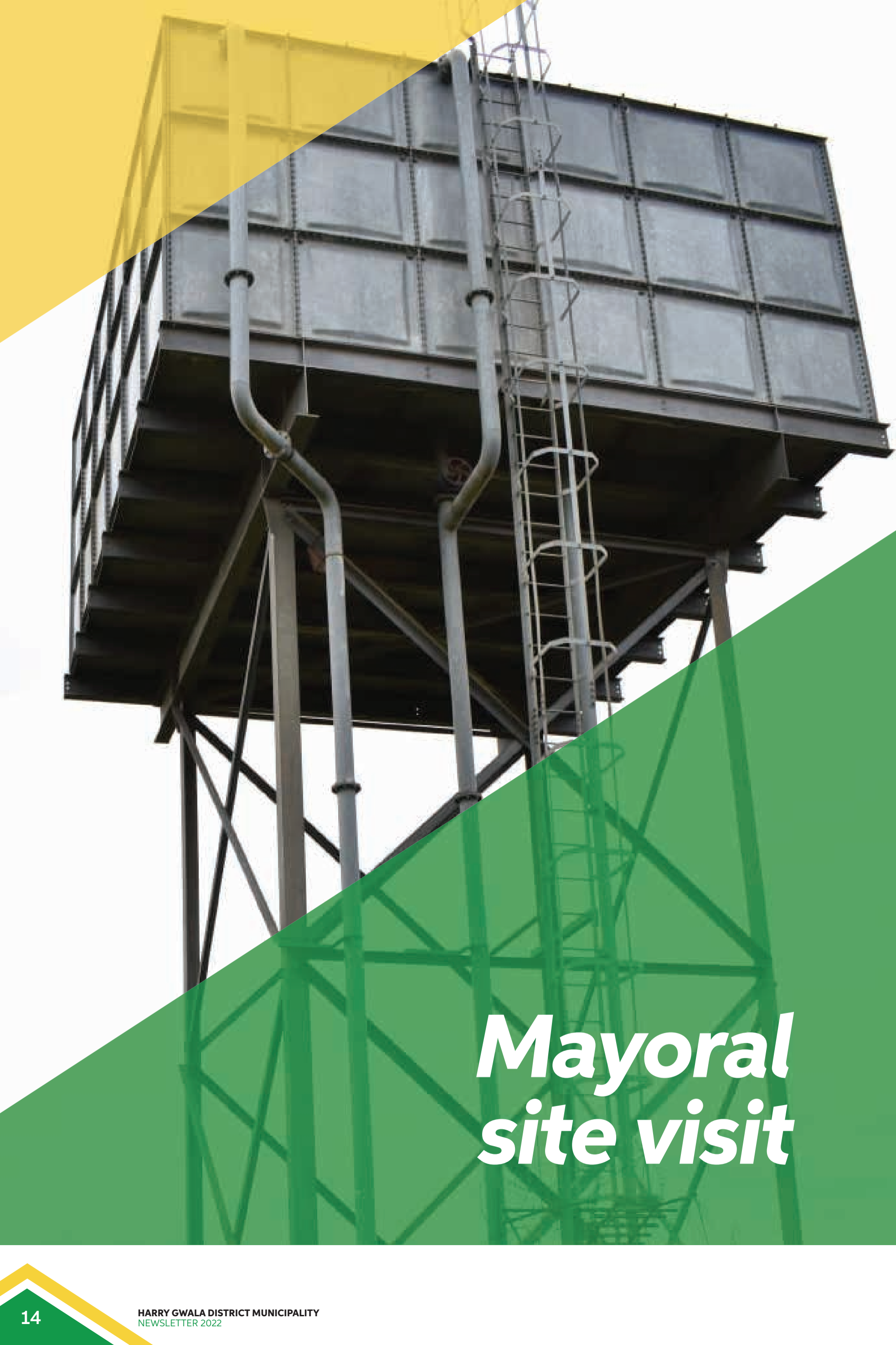
Vandalism of water infrastructure deprives the community of a constant water supply. Moreover interfering with municipal infrastructure is a criminal offense and as such must be reported. Communities were also educated that water tanker services which is for use by everyone, only limited containers must be used by each family. The communities requested that the awareness programme be taken to schools as most vandalism is done by school children. Communities have been encouraged to use the call center as this makes it easy to follow up on complaints.



Mqatsheni awareness campaign



Ndumakude awareness campaign



Mayoral site visit



Mayor Cllr Z.D Nxumalo with a delegation visited the Kokstad Reservoirs.

AS part of ensuring that the resolutions made in the previous meetings are being followed up on as resolved in Council and its portfolio committees, the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Zamokwakhe Nxumalo led from the front when he led a delegation from the Municipality to assess the implementation of major projects by the District.

Fortunately, in his visit to the Kokstad reservoirs, the Mayor, discovered that major challenges that had befallen the projects were resolved but only minor challenges were outstanding.

The delegation included the deputy Mayor, Cllr. Nosisa Jojozi, Speaker, Cllr. Sibongiseni Mdunge, managers and officials from the District Municipal water section who had

to provide answers to some questions posed to them.

The Mayor and the delegation's visit started at the Kokstad Municipal Council Chamber, where they were briefed by the employees of the Harry Gwala District's Kokstad satellite office about the challenges that are a nightmare or require the immediate intervention of the head office.

Besides conducting follow-up monitoring assessment the visit was also part of the Mayor's mandate of ensuring service delivery to the communities on set time-frames.

He visited reservoirs in the Kokstad townships and the Crystal Springs Dam where the Mayor suggested that his Municipality should conduct relevant research in constructing river catchment areas to preserve water that will be used during dry winter seasons.



Mayor Z.D Nxumalo with Deputy Mayor T.N Jojozi, Speaker M.S.D Mdunge on a site visit in Kokstad Reservoirs.



Mayor Z.D Nxumalo with Deputy Mayor T.N Jojozi, Speaker M.S.D Mdunge seen discussing the reservoirs in Kokstad





PROJECT PROFILE: KOKSTAD RISING MAIN

PROJECT NAME

Construction of the Kokstad Rising Main 5km, 500mm diameter Steel and uPVC, 2 x Pumps and Pump House,

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is in the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality which falls within the jurisdiction of the Harry Gwala District Municipality. The project mainly targets water supply in the Kokstad area. The area is mostly commercial, residential and agricultural. This pipe is designed as a rising main from the Kokstad pump station which extracts water from the nearby Mzintlava river.

BACKGROUND

The project will benefit the residents in the Kokstad area of the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality in the Harry Gwala District Municipality. The project mainly targets water supply in the Kokstad area.

The Kokstad area is a mixed-use area between residential, agricultural and tourist attractions with holiday accommodations (hotels, lodges etc). The Kokstad town has been experiencing water shortages due to the infrastructure limitations. This pipe is designed as a rising main from the Kokstad pump station which extracts water from the nearby Mzintlava River. The water is then pumped through an existing pipeline to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) where it will be treated before it is distributed to the community.

Enroute to the WTP, the pipe will traverse through private land, and underneath the Provincial road R617. The existing WTP is considered to be sufficient for the proposed upgrade; however, the abstraction works, reticulation, reservoirs and source development is also planned to be upgraded on a

separate project.

It is further estimated that the project would be completed within a construction period of 12 months.

The municipality seeks to create work opportunities through the employment of local labour under the EPWP guidelines using labour intensive construction techniques where safety measures allow.

The municipality also seeks to empower local emerging businesses through careful subcontracting. Subcontracting will be on packages to be subcontracted to ensure that subcontractors have a clear scope and explicit expectations.

The project is funded by the Municipal Infrastructure Grant through the Project Management Unit under Harry Gwala District Municipality.

CURRENT SCOPE OF WORKS

The current scope of works under this contract seeks to upgrade the existing Rising main from the Abstraction works to the Kokstad Treatment Works.

The scope is as follows:

- Construction of 5km, 500mm diameter steel and uPVC rising main
- Installation of 2 x Pumps
- Rehabilitation of the Pump house

CONTRACT DATA

Technical Consultant: **Zimile Consulting Engineers**

Contractor: **Mahlubi Transport and plant Hire**

Revised Completion Date: **30 June 2022**

Contract Value: **R 45 503 536.38**





Harry Gwala District team with plague cards outside the municipality in order to educate on Fraud & Corruption

Municipality takes a stance against FRAUD & CORRUPTION

In an effort to fight fraud and corruption in the Harry Gwala District Municipality, the Risk Management led the campaign to educate the municipalities employees on dangers and implication of Fraud and Corruption.

Municipal Manager, Mrs A.N Dlamini addressing the staff she said this initiative was necessary and applauded the user department for such effort.

This is part of the municipality's action plan in accordance with the mission and vision to run a corrupt free municipality, not only through paying lip service issuing warnings but by practically taking a serious stance against any elements of corruption that may seek to rear their ugly heads within the Municipality.

The step taken by the Municipality was to firmly commit the Municipality in applying "Zero Tolerance" to fraud and corruption. The campaign was held at the Harry Gwala District Municipality offices in order to speak- out in a form of raising awareness to the community encouraging them to report any person who seems to be on the wrong side of the law.

"Fraud and corruption is not only about fraudulent activities but was also to sound an alarm on other wrong elements of abuse such as the use of municipal vehicles without being authorized to do so and late coming to work. These are also forms of corrupt acts because you are being paid a salary, which is not according to the official hours one has to work for," Dlamini said.

She added that corruption is cancellous and it eats up the limited resources of the Municipality that are meant at providing services to communities.

"We are doing this to ensure that our employees are vigilant about the acts of corruption so that they can resist them whenever they come across them and also have a knowledge on how to crush corruption to the core and leave no stone unturned to those committing it," she said.

The occasion was part of the international fraud awareness week, which brings to light the impact of fraud and corruption upon the society. Miss Zama Lugongolo, Senior Manager: Risk Management said the awareness was necessary for everyone to be aware of fraud and corruption.

"We want to avoid instances where some people turn to say they were not aware they were committing fraud and corruption when they are caught to face the music," she said.

The National Anti-Fraud and Corruption is as follows: 0800 701 701.



Municipal officials were visited at their offices to be educated on Fraud and Corruption



Municipal Manager Mrs A.N Dlamini, Executive Directors, Mr M.Mkatu and Miss N. Lungwengwe attended the fraud and Corruption briefing session



Municipal Drivers as they drove out the municipal main office were also shown plague cards on Corruption and Fraud awareness



A special congratulation goes to learners who have put our District on the map by obtaining distinctions in different subjects. They include Nkosi Ndlovu from Clydesdale Secondary School, Abongile Ngqoyiya and Luyanda Stuurman from Little Flower Secondary School and others.



Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, Local Mayors from uMzimkhulu and Nkosazane Dlamini Zuma, officials from Department of Education attended the announcement of the Matric 2021 result an event held at Little Flower Secondary



Mayor Z.D Nxumalo being interviewed by Harry Gwala FM.



Mayor Z.D Nxumalo with Anson Vottokumel, one of the Matric Learners who obtain good results

Mayor calls for businesses to play a significant role to improve education

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Z.D Nxumalo has called on local businesses especially the private sector to play a significant role in improving the education system in rural areas.

Cllr Nxumalo's call refers to everyone who is able to bring a helping hand in terms of giving donations to poor schools such as uniforms and even infrastructural equipment.

This is in line with the government's call that even individual communities should put their hands up to assist the government where needed rather than to take a back seat and wait for the government to be always offering them with whatever they need.

He said these words when conducting their back to school annual programme where the Municipality and other relevant departments visit poor performing schools to zoom in-to some challenges that may be resulting in poor performance. The programme is not only meant to deal with challenges at schools but also congratulated those who performed well to ensure assistance when furthering their education at tertiary levels.

It also encouraged those who have not performed well not to give up hope. The programme often includes members of

the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature and School Governing Bodies (SGBs) to find a permanent solution to challenges that are a result of poor performance.

The presence of the Harry Gwala District Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Nosisa Jojozi and the Municipality Speaker, Cllr. Sibongiseni Mdunge played a significant role where matters related in providing water at the local schools were discussed. The School uniform and shoes were also donated.

Deputy Minister of Minerals Resources and Energy, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane also embarked on a back to school outreach campaign at Harry Gwala District Municipality.

In February she visited Ginyiqhinga Senior Secondary in Mzumkhulu Local Municipality. She was accompanied by Cllr Zodidi Tshazi and Harry Gwala District Youth Manager Mr Qiniso Mnguni.

Her visit is part of the campaign which is aimed at encouraging learners, educators to contribute to the sustainability development goal of accessing education and the elimination of poverty especially in the rural community.

Learning material to support pupils such as calculators were given to learners.



Harry Gwala District Youth Entrepreneurship Indaba got underway in Kokstad

WITH the latest unemployment statistics sadly demonstrating that it is young people who are bearing the brunt of joblessness, South Africa is sitting on an unemployment powder keg whose explosion would be too ghastly to contemplate.

It is against such a rudimentary reality that the Harry Gwala District Municipality Youth Directorate has come forward to find lasting solutions to this national crisis of youth unemployment.

The District's Youth Directorate has observed that it is critical that the youth benefit in the economy of the country and that they do not sit idle and be spectators. This was the opening message at the Youth Entrepreneurship Indaba held at Rocky Ridge Lodge in Kokstad for a period of two days (20-21 December 2021).

The Indaba was co-ordinated by the Harry Gwala District Municipality Youth Manager, Mr Qiniso Mnguni and his team.

Delivering a message of support in his opening remarks,

Greater Kokstad Municipality Speaker Cllr Lwanda Madikizela said it is time that the youth position themselves so that they are part and parcel of critical decisions with regards to the country's economy.

"Delegates in this conference need to go back to the drawing board and ask what is it that we want to benefit and go after it. The youth must not be spectators in the economy. Young people must position themselves so that they benefit in the economy. Young people should not be relying on being employed but must be in a position to create employment for other people," said Speaker Madikizela.

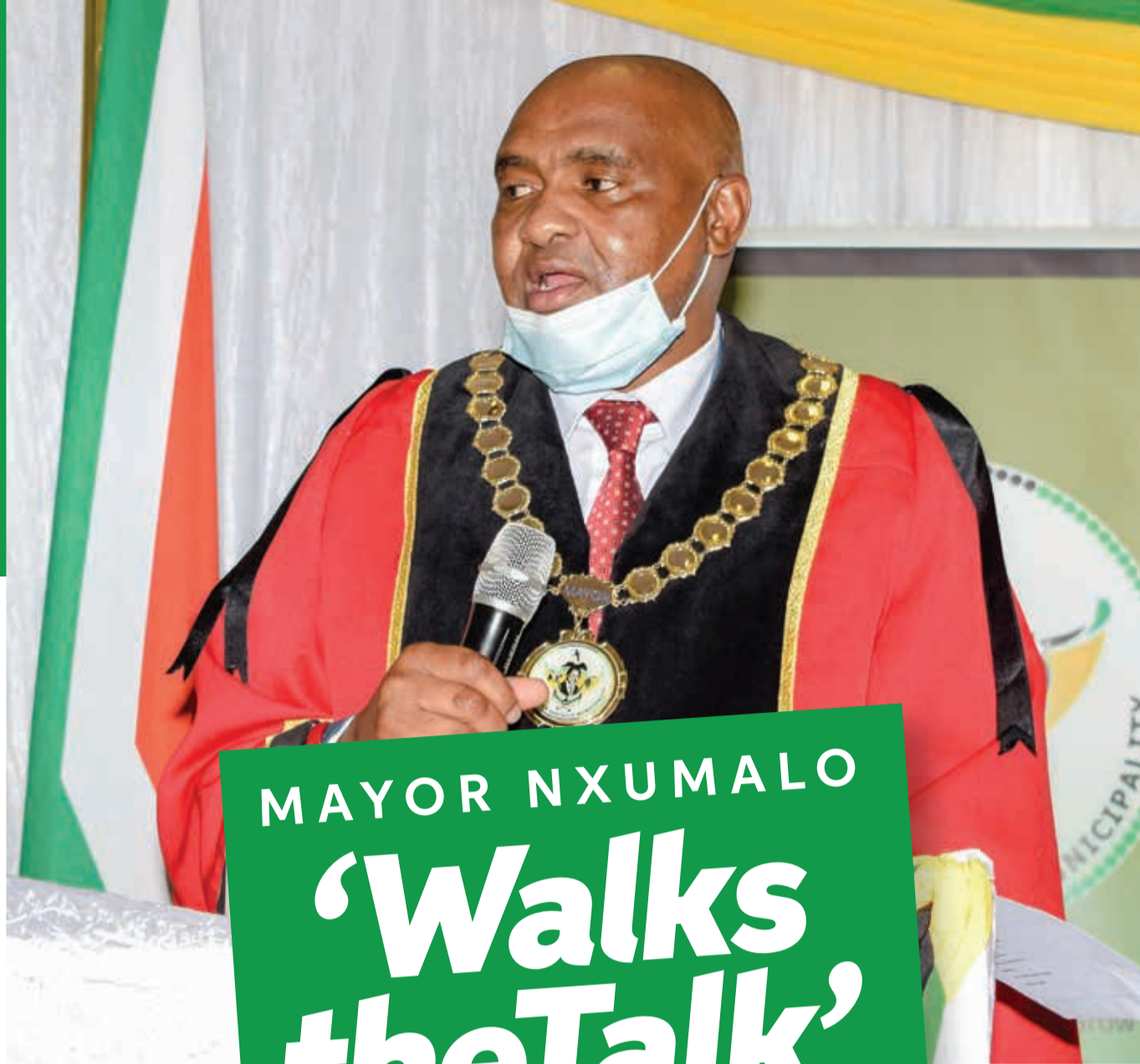
Mnguni, said this is an effort to empower youth across the District.

The Indaba provided a platform for sharing of knowledge, experience and the youth also got a chance to discuss ideas, challenges and opportunities in entrepreneurship.

This programme was attended by delegates from local municipalities: uBuhlebezwe, Greater Kokstad, uMzimkhulu, and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipalities.



The Youth participated in different programs during the Indaba



MAYOR NXUMALO 'Walks theTalk'

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor, Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo proved himself to be amongst the Mayors who are “walking the talk” after he announced, during his inauguration, the need to not waste any more time but to hit the ground running and work just after a few minutes of being inaugurated as the new Mayor for 2021 to 2026, term of office.

Adding to that, he encouraged that all the Municipal Managers and Councillors must head to the Municipal offices to start working on their tasks after the inauguration.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo said: “As we have signed the pledges committing ourselves to be servants of the people, there is no time to waste as our people need services delivered to them as we speak.”

The event was a success, which saw the former speaker, Cllr Nosisa Jojozi assuming the duties of being the Deputy

Mayor, while Cllr Sibongiseni Mdunge filled her shoes becoming the Speaker of the municipality.

The ceremony was held at the Peace Initiative Hall in Ixopo under the uBuhlebezwe Municipality and it was attended by dignitaries such as the former eThekweni Mayor, Zandile Gumede, former Health Minister, Zweli Mkhize and the MEC for the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Siphso Hlomuka who is also the political champion in the District.

“The real work begins now, roll up your sleeves and be ready to implement the local government mandate as per the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa,” said Cllr. Nxumalo.

MEC Hlomuka also made an impassioned plea to the newly elected leadership to serve the people of Harry Gwala with diligence and humility.

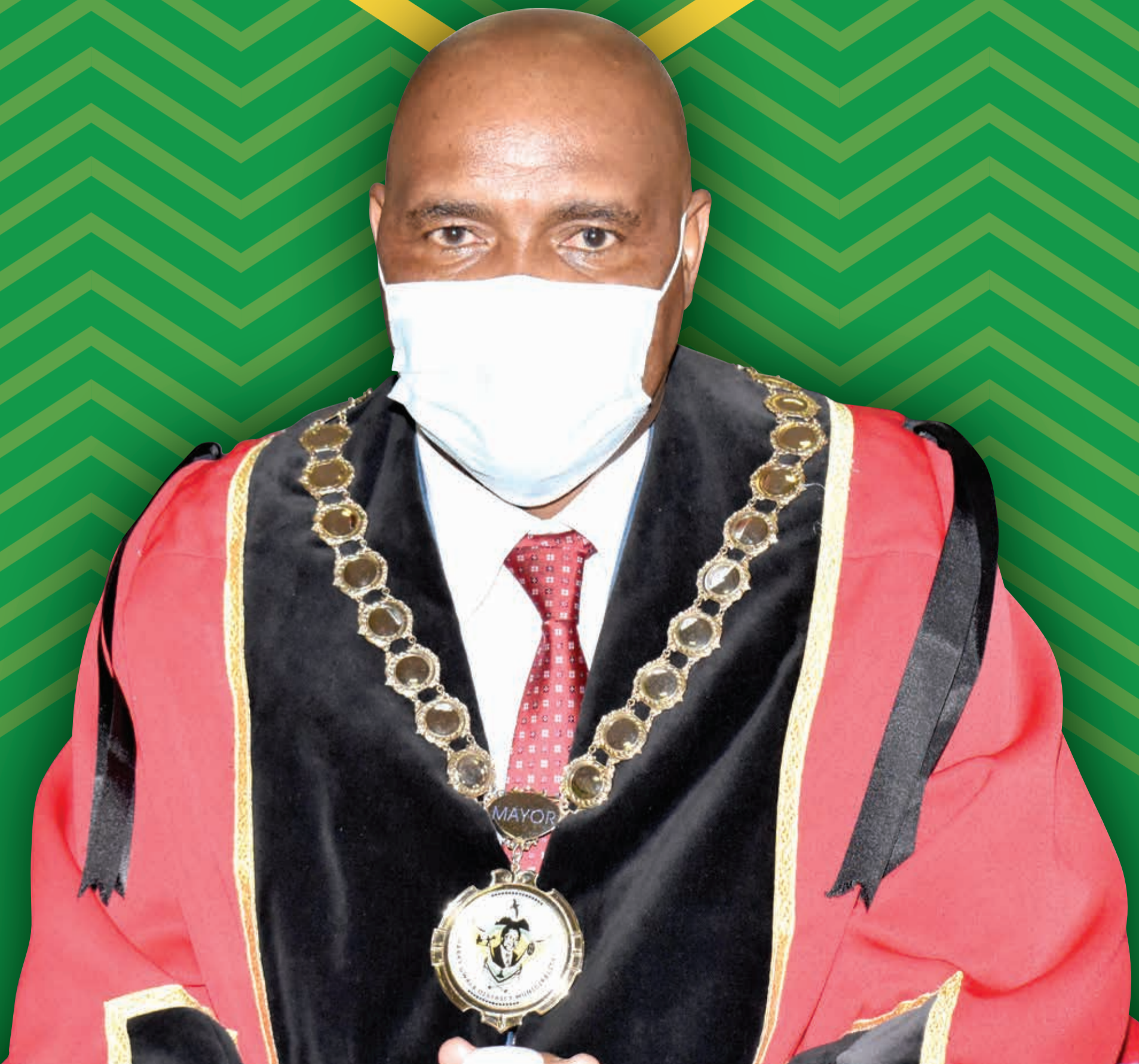
Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo's background

FAMOUSLY known by his clan name “Zwide”, he hails from the Thuleshe Rural Village was born into a big family of four girls and six boys. He began his education at Mehlomane Lower Primary School and obtained his matric at KwaNokweja High School in 1988. He is a devout Christian and a family man who is not only leading the municipality but there is also a political responsibility tasked on him of leading the district as chairperson of the ruling party.

His political career dates as far back as 1993 when he joined the ruling party after having worked for it underground during difficult times of apartheid.

In 1994 he was the first elected branch Chairperson of Thuleshe branch until he was tasked to different positions in the party as he has been the regional treasurer for two consecutive terms. He was also the Mayor of uBuhlebezwe before he became the Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality.

Inauguration Council 2021



His worship the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

Inauguration 26 November 2021 Peace Initiative Hall



MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Mr Siphon Hlomuka (District Champion) putting on Cllr Z.D Nxumalo's mayoral chain at his inauguration



New council leadership announced: Speaker Cllr. MSD Mdunge as Speaker, Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo as Mayor and Cllr. T.N Jojozi as Deputy Mayor



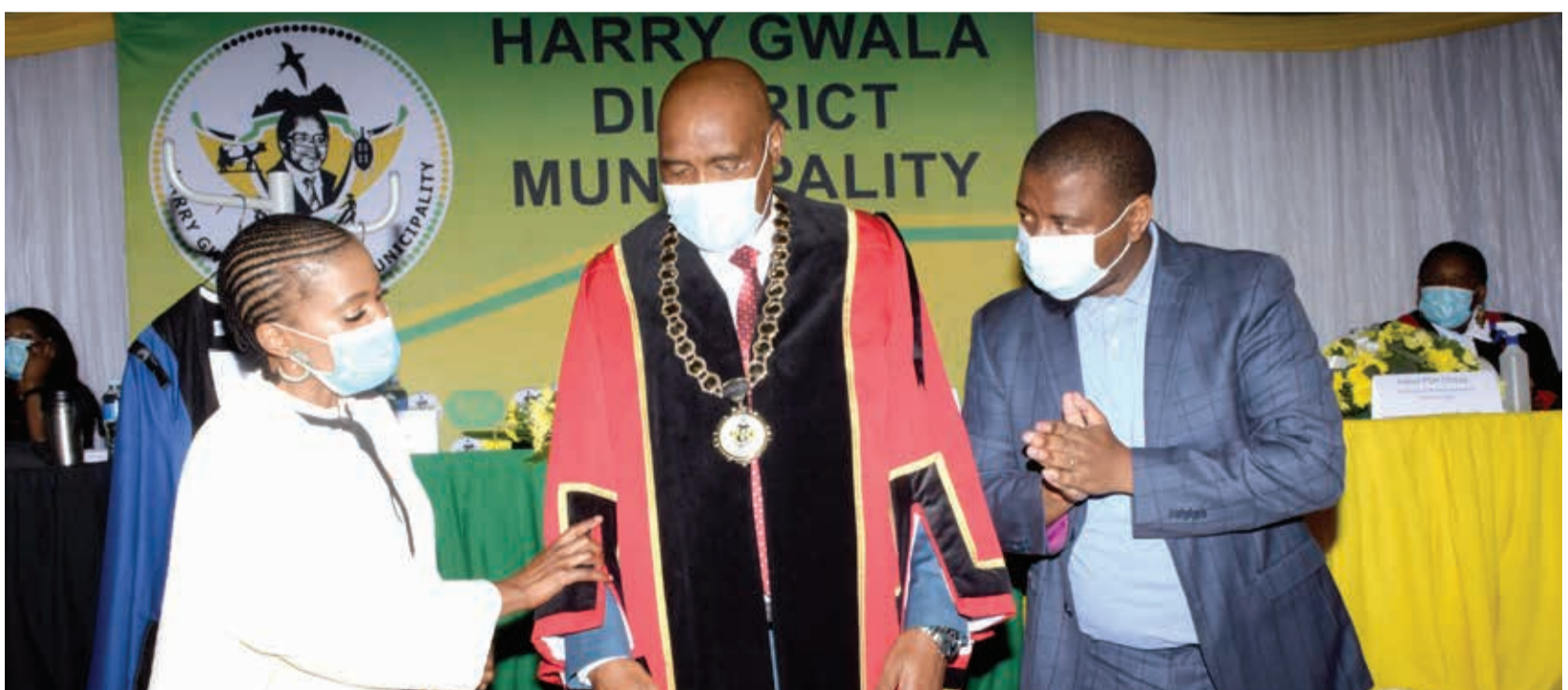
Mr Siphon Hlomuka congratulating the new Deputy Mayor



Program director for the day Mr R. Langa



Mr Siphon Hlomuka congratulating the new Mayor



Municipal Manager Mrs A.N Dlamini congratulating the Mayor together with Mr. Siphon Hlomuka



New council: Harry Gwala District Municipality was sworn in, the inauguration was attended by politicians, friends, family, officials and members of the community.



Mayor Cllr Z.D Nxumalo spoke to Igagasi FM listeners on progress in his 100 days in the office.

Mayor's 100 days in office live on Gagasi FM: INDABA TALK SHOW

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Zamokwakhe Nxumalo was erudite and took control of the Gagasi FM, Indaba Talk Show, afternoon news programme, which largely holds politicians accountable where they are put on the spot to answer questions live on air on the progress done in relation to infrastructure development and service delivery programmes in their different municipalities.

Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo conducted the interview in the form of a public engagement with communities of his District in celebrating 100 days in office after he was re-elected as the Mayor of the municipality last year.

The programme was to gauge the progress on municipal infrastructure developments especially in rural areas and by also giving an opportunity to local residents to pose questions, comments and compliments about service delivery in their different areas.

Cllr Nxumalo was ready for the show when he gave details on each and every question posed to him during the studio interview.

He was commended for being one of the best Mayors rich with knowledge of his area where he would explain to each listener challenges of each rural village and how the municipality planned to resolve them.

Water and sanitation challenges were brought to the fore as this is the core function of the municipality.

"It was important that as part of my 100 days in office I explain what the municipality had done and also elaborate on what plans we have for them. It was exciting to have an engagement with the listeners, we heard them and on our next encounter we shall provide more answers," said Mayor Nxumalo.

Just after the interview with Gagasi FM, Mayor Nxumalo committed to follow up on challenges and complaints that residents within Harry Gwala had raised on the radio, in which some of them were responded to.

Nxumalo conveyed words of gratitude to the Gagasi FM team that warmly welcomed him, which included Mthiyane the Host, Themba Ngongo, Sales Account Manager, Phindile Biyela, Account Manager and Khulekani Shandu, a Business Development Manager.



Alex Mthiyane puts the Mayor on the spot



A warm welcome to Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo at Igagasi FM



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY APRIL 2022 FLOODING REPORT

ON the 02nd, 9th to 12th of April 2022, Harry Gwala District Municipality experienced heavy rains accompanied by heavy rains, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning which resulted in flooding in some areas. The Following municipalities were affected: Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Greater Kokstad, Ubuhlebezwe, and Umzimkhulu.

The Harry Gwala District and Local Municipality teams responded to seek and determine the extent of the damages in order to provide emergency assistance to the families affected.

Houses were flooded, walls collapsed in certain instances some bridges and roads could not be assessed due to flooding. **The following areas were affected:**

Municipality	Area	Ward
Dr. NDZ	Bethlehem, Siphahleni, kwaButho and Masamini	Ward 12 and 15
Greater Kokstad	Mpela, Zolani, Horseshoe and Egoli	Ward 5 and 9
Ubuhlebezwe	Fairview-shayamoya, Chocolate City, Nokweja, Springvale, Hlokozi, Hluthankungu, Nokweja and Mhlabashane	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11
Umzimkhulu	Border, Clydesdale, kwa Dayi, Mfundweni, Ncambele, Skhulu, Raloti, Machunwini, KwaMeyi, Ibisi., Mvubukazi and Chancele	2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22

A total of three hundred and ninety-eight (398) households were affected. Two hundred and Twenty-Two (222) partially damaged households, one forty-three (143) totally destroyed, and one twenty-three (123) homeless. Six hundred and forty-three (643) people were affected. Three (3) fatalities (2 drownings and 1 lightning) were confirmed by SAPS and 2 injuries occurred at Dr. NDZ Municipality.

Table 1: Number of incidents and impact per Local Municipality

Local Municipalities	Number of Incidents	Households Affected	Houses Destroyed		Homeless	People Affected	Fatalities	Injuries
			Totally Destroyed	Partially Damaged				
Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma	99	99	28	53	18	181	3	2
Ubuhlebezwe	57	57	11	37	9	104	0	0
UMzimkhulu	43	43	14	23	6	119	0	0
Greater Kokstad	199	199	90	109	90	239	0	0
TOTAL	398	398	143	222	123	643	3	2



The picture depicts flooding in Kokstad (houses built next to Umzinhlava river)

Table 2: Types of Incidents per LM

Local Municipality	Heavy Rain / Hailstorm	Lightning	Strong wind	Drowning
Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma	99	1	0	2
Ubuhlebezwe	57	0	0	0
UMzimkhulu	43	0	0	0
Greater Kokstad	199	0	0	0
TOTAL	398	1	0	2



Flooding in Ixopo Fairview (shacks built on the riverbank)

DISPLACED PERSONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT

As part of preparedness planning, the local municipalities identified community halls that will be utilised to accommodate disaster victims for evacuation when the disaster occurred. Due to the flooding that occurred in Kokstad and Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality, some people were displaced.

Greater Kokstad Municipality

There were hundred and Forty-two (142) displaced people due to flooding that affected their households. A Community hall was identified and provided with 30 mattresses and 30 blankets. SASSA provided 100 food vouchers to affected

victims.

Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality

On the 12th of April 2022, four (4) shacks were washed away at Fairview (Shayamoya area). The shacks were built next to the river bank. Two families where shacks were washed away were evacuated to the Fairview Hall and were given blankets and mattresses. SASSA also provided food vouchers to the affected families.

On the 17th of April, nine people were accommodated at Ward 14 Ndwebu Community Hall after their households were totally destroyed as a result of heavy rain and flooding in the area. SASSA also provided soup kitchen and food

vouchers to the affected victims. The matter was reported to Harry Gwala District Municipality on the 18th of April.

FLOOD DAMAGED ROADS AND BRIDGES AFFECTED
A total of 190 roads including bridges were affected in all Local Municipalities within the district.

MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF ROADS & BRIDGES AFFECTED	TOTAL COST ESTIMATE
Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma	67 roads	R154 000,000.00
Greater Kokstad	59 roads	R165 000,000.00
Ubuhlebezwe	32 roads	R125 000,000.00
uMzimkhulu	32 roads	R 44 000,000.00
Total	190	R487 000,000.00

FLOOD DAMAGED ROADS AND BRIDGES AFFECTED IN AREAS WITHIN THE DISTRICT



Bridges and roads damages and washed away by floods in April 2022

IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:

Harry Wala District Municipality

- 33 Blankets
- 45 Mattresses
- 16 Plastic Sheeting
- 4 Funeral Groceries

GREATER KOKSTAD MUNICIPALITY

- 30 Mattresses
- 30 Blankets

DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

- 38 Blankets
- 20 Plastic Sheeting
- 10 Box B's (Cutlery, Washing Basin, Gel Stove, Buckets and Pots)

UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

- 19 Blankets
- 18 Mattresses
- 8 Plastic Sheeting

UMZIMKHULU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

- 12 Mattresses

- 16 Blankets
- 12 Food Parcels
- 11 Plastic Sheeting's

SUPPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS

SASSA

- 102 Vouchers to the affected families in Kokstad and Ubuhlebezwe.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- Harry Gwala District Municipality Disaster Management Centre
- Local Municipalities Fire Services
- Department of Transport
- SASSA
- Department of Social Development (DSD)
- Ward Councillors and Ward Committees

Abasebenzi abajongene nentlekele kwiHarry Gwala District Municipality bamaxhaphetshu behlolisisa umonakalo benikezela ngezixhobo zokunceda abantu,bencediswa ngooCeba neeKomiti zasekuhlaleni. Akukho ngxelo zokunqongophala kwamanzi ekuhlalei, kwizin. Bhedlela nakwimizi yokugcina abalanduleleyo eli limagad'ahlabayo.



District Mayor Cllr Z.D Nxumalo with local Mayor uMzimkhulu Cllr. Jabulile Msiya, addressing the media at the launch

Mayors welcomes and embraces Harry Gwala Marathon re-launch

AFTER being halted in order to adhere to Covid-19 regulations, which prohibited gatherings, the Harry Gwala District Marathon official re-launch has warmly been embraced within the district with a massive support from relevant stakeholders, businesses, sporting agencies and government departments.

This was evident during the official launch held in Kokstad recently. The support for the marathon was also evident when the venue for the launch was changed at the eleventh hour as it was expected to be held in Ixopo but had to be moved to Kokstad. This did not deter the support for the race as guests and delegates braved the hot weather to be part of this massive event.

The contingent of journalists from across the KwaZulu-Natal province came out in their numbers to witness the long awaited launch, including the Mayors of sister-municipalities within the district and Municipal Managers.

The uBuhlebezwe Mayor, Cllr Bathobile Ngubo, uMzimkhulu Mayor, Cllr Jabulile Msiya, Kokstad Mayor represented by Cllr Zodidi Tshazi, Harry Gwala Deputy Mayor, Cllr Nosisa Jojozi, Deputy Mayor of the NkosazanaDlamini-Zuma Municipality, Cllr Kholeka Hadebe, Harry Gwala Municipal Manager, Nomnandi Dlamini, Harry Gwala Finance Manager, Mthethunzima Mkatu, Social Services and planning development Manager, Thobile Thiyane-Magaqa as well as the Genius Athletic Club director, Themba Gumede were part of the dignitaries present at the launch.

The special programmes manager, Raymond Langa was the Programme's director. The Department of Sport and Recreation in the District which continues to play a pivotal role in the existence of the race was also well represented.

Despite the break owing to Covid-19, the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo called for the support of the Marathon set to take place May 15 2022.

He said this forms part of Inter-governmental Relations as it goes parallel with some of the infrastructural programmes of the district as plans are underway to build a R 200 million sports facility in uMzimkhulu suitable for all sporting codes as part of becoming the renowned district in sport.

"Evident to that, we are the rural district that produced prominent athletes who qualified to run in the global marathons here in our country and abroad..." said Cllr Nxumalo.

Adding to that, Cllr Nxumalo revealed that Bongumusa Mthembu, the three-time Comrades Marathon winner is from the district of Harry Gwala in Bulwer.

"Chalwe has also ran in the prominent world's marathons putting our district of Harry Gwala on the map," said Cllr. Nxumalo.

He added that it has been scientifically proven that the reason why they have good runners/athletes in his district is because they have clean and non-polluted air.

Getting into the background of the marathon, Cllr Nxumalo said it is a brainchild of the Ixopo Genius Club led by Gumede, which started during his tenure when he was still the Mayor of uBuhlebezwe.

"We have always heard that there was a marathon in the district. We investigated and approached Gumede after which we came up with a clear plan of teaming up to grow the marathon by organising sponsors and other necessities," said Cllr Nxumalo.

However, he revealed there will be no prize of a vehicle as they were still recovering from the gaps caused by the Covid-19.

The marathan is divided into three categorie, the 42.4 kms flagship race, 21.1 kms and 10 kms for both males and females. The race will start at: R612 Highflats and the finish will be at uMzimkhulu College.

The 42.2 km race will start at 06:30 am, followed by the 21.1 km which will start at 7:00am and the 10 km will commence at 07:15 am. Athletes in this marathon will get to share prize monies valued at over R400 000.

In the main race (42.2km) the first man and woman will each walk away with R50 000, second place R30 000, third place R15 000 until position 10 who will receive R3 000.

Prizes for 21.1 km for the first man and woman is R10 000 each, second place R7 000, third place R6 000, until position 10 who will get R1000.

For 10km the winners will get R5000, position two will receive R3 000 and third position will receive R2 000.

For the race walk for the first man and woman each will pocket R2 000, second place R1000 and third place R800. All finishers will receive medals.

Athletes are urged to enter now and can download the form by following the prompts on the link below: <https://www.eventtiming.info/entryonline.php?id=488>, where there will be an application form. Entry forms are also available at Harry Gwala main offices on 40 Main Street Ixopo, and other Local Municipality offices within the district and on the district's website.

Entry fee for the 42.2 km is R300, 21.1 km is R250, 10 km is R200 and for the 5km Fun Run it is R100. The new race walk 10km entry will be R200. Athletes will be required to obtain temporary licenses for 10km and 21.1km.

Entries are opened until 11 May, after that an added R50 will be paid for late entries. This race is also a Comrades Marathon qualifier.



A successful Launch of the Harry Gwala district Marathon in Kokstad. Media houses, officials, Athletes attended. Seen at the Marathon Launch was also the Municipal Manager Mrs AN Dlamini



It was a joyous day for women in business who gathered at Indaba



Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, addressing the delegations



KwaZulu-Natal Premier Mr Sihle Zikalala, addressing the delegations at the Imbizo



Mayor Cllr Z.D Nxumalo addressing delegated at the Imbizo

Imbizo: The mainstreaming of Women, Youth and Persons with disabilities within the eastern seaboard development

“WOMEN need to be at the forefront of economic development”, that was the message at the Eastern Seaboard Development imbizo which took place at the Greater Kokstad Youth Centre in the Harry Gwala District Municipality recently.

The imbizo discussed the integration of coastal cities from KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, involving four district municipalities from both provinces.

The KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala, welcoming the delegates and officials, said this was indeed a great opportunity for the attendees.

The Imbizo was attended by Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Dr Nkosazane Dlamini-Zuma, Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane as well MECs from Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Dr. Dlamini-Zuma said women, especially from the rural areas, must also be included in the South African economy.

Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, speaking at the event, said as a District they will ensure that there are programmes that support this initiative of eastern seaboard development.



Women attending the Imbizo



Executive Director, Social Services and Development Planning in Harry Gwala District Municipality Mrs Thobile Thiyane-Magaqa



A fire drill practice to make sure that employers understand what to do should there be a fire in the municipality

Fire drill awareness campaign

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality has begun working closely with sister Municipalities within the district to ensure that its personnel are well-equipped with knowledge regarding safety precautions.

This is after the uBuhlebezwe Firefighter’s Department conducted a fire drill awareness at the Harry Gwala District Municipality offices to share the knowledge of analysing risks of fire in one’s vicinity and taking preventive measures to ensure minimum damage and a safer escape to people who might be under duress or besieged by fire.

Occupational Health and Safety together with wellness programme employees under the Corporate Services Department in the Municipality spearheaded the programme cautioning the employees about the dangers of fire in a working environment and at their homes.

The firefighters also demonstrated different ways of dealing and approaching fire.

They further stated that a small fire could quickly spread and become very dangerous and life threatening, so it is very

important to know all corners of the place one is living in and always bear in mind that fire is something that can start at anytime.

Corporate Services Executive Director, Miss Neziswa Lungwengwe conveyed words of gratitude to the uBuhlebezwe Municipality fire-fighters for sharing important information relating to protecting people’s lives from fires, which have claimed many lives in many places where some died due to panicking as a result of lack of valuable knowledge.

She acknowledged her staff members for honouring the fire drill campaign saying “it is important to be well- informed on how to react to fire even when we are at our homes”.

Following the awareness, there was a fire drill practice, where there was a staged fire to allow staff to practice evacuation procedures in a simulated situation to ensure they are fully aware of how to safely exit the building. The process was conducted smoothly and no one was injured.

The numbers that can be used for help in cases of fire are as follows: 039 834 2211 and 082 5324558.



A fire drill workshop to educate employees on fire dangers



Practicing how to use a fire extinguisher



Executive Director, Cooperate Services, Miss N Lungwengwe, addressing employees on the importance of having a fire drill in a workplace



State-of-the-art taxi rank officially opened in uMzimkhulu



THE strenuous taxi rank condition that caused frustrations to passengers when having to travel such as overwhelming dust on sunny days and mud when it rained and the roof that leaked water are now the thing of the past for the uMzimkhulu taxi associations as the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo, along with relevant stakeholders, officially opened the state-of-the-art taxi rank recently.



MEC of Transport in KwaZulu-Natal Peggy Nkonyeni with a delegation which included Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo and other officials, officially opened the Taxi Rank in UMzimkhulu

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Ms Peggy Nkonyeni encouraged taxi drivers to take the responsibility of monitoring the cleanliness of the rank that it should never be vandalised.

This is a highly-technologically advanced transport facility hosting local and long distance taxis.

The facility is commuter-friendly and it is the largest public transport facility in the district with office space,



The state of the art newly built Taxi & Bus Rank in uMzimkhulu

bathrooms and space for taxi rank workshops. It is easy to access by the public and is closer to the shops.

The interesting part is that, it is easily accessible by commuters who are living with disabilities with toilets



Inspections of the newly built Taxi an Bus Rank in UMzimkhulu

designed specifically for them. It also has good lighting and wide corridors to ensure that the facility is safe and attractive.

It has a friendly and manageable space for the flow of taxis so that no matter how full it is, taxis would manoeuvre the facility without causing traffic jams.

The members of the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) that were part of the opening have ensured that



Mayor Z.D Nxumalo joined in the aerobics routine at the Rank

only licenced and roadworthy vehicles will be allowed to operate in the rank.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo said they really appreciated the fact that the facility has reached completion stage after taking a long time to construct. The Mayor said that the taxi rank is the first of its kind as it is a pilot project throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

He said the rural communities of uMzimkhulu are enjoying a safe environment for public transport.

MEC Nkonyeni said this was part of their projects to ensure safety for commuters on the road and at taxi ranks as they continue to allocate annual budgets for infrastructural developments in the Province.



Harry Gwala District continues to implement its core mandate for the benefit of communities

HARRY Gwala District Municipality (HGDM) as a Water Services Authority (WSA) has a constitutional mandate of providing access to water and sanitation services to all communities residing within its area of jurisdiction in terms of the Municipal Structures Act (Act No. 117 of 1998).

This constitutional responsibility is carried out by the district taking into cognizance the rights of everyone to sufficient food and water as well as the rights to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being as enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996). The legislation enforces the district to provide good quality water that will not threaten the constitutional rights of individuals within its jurisdiction. The provisioning of sanitation services for human dignity is also emphasized.

Sanitation usually refers to public health conditions related to clean drinking water and adequate treatment and disposal of human excreta. Preventing human contact with faeces is part of sanitation, as is handwashing with soap. Lack of proper sanitation causes diseases; reduces the

quality and function of life and dignity of human beings. Those in our communities that defecate in the open and in water bodies contribute to polluting the environment, which causes diseases and harms species in water bodies and the natural environment. Poor sanitation has negative effects on individuals, the environment and the nation at large.

In ensuring implementation of water and sanitation as a mandate the government issued the Municipal Infrastructure Grant to be utilized for the construction of VIP toilet units in uBuhlebezwe Municipality and this was based solely on the approved business plan. It is important to note that there is a huge backlog in this municipality and the district at large and as such the money that was received from DWS through WSIG at the end of March 2022 was then allocated towards the provision of VIP toilets in UMzimkhulu, Greater Kokstad, and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini- Zuma local municipalities. This allocation was guided by an approved DWS Business Plan of WSIG.

Below are the tables summarizing the VIP Toilet Units that have been implemented through MIG and the ones that are currently being implemented through WSIG.

Table 1: VIP Toilet Units Constructed Through MIG

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	WARD	N.O. OF TOILETS PROVIDED ALREADY
Dr. NDZ	05	190
	12	122
Greater Kokstad	02	100
Ubuhebezwe	14	220
	01	400

Table 2: VIP Toilet Units Constructed Through WSIG

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	WARD	N.O. OF TOILETS PROVIDED ALREADY
Dr. NDZ	01	350
	04	180
	14	57
Greater Kokstad	02	103
	06	230
Umzimkhulu	01	423
	06	90
	07	123
	08	93
	19	200
	03	440



District Mayor Cllr Z.D Nxumalo speaking at the strategic session



Executive Director Chief Financial Officer, M. Mkatu at the strategic session



Speaker M.S.D Mdunge as chairperson at the Strategic session



Even when no one is watching we need to do right - Mayor Nxumalo

EVEN when no one is watching we need to do right, that was the opening remarks by his worship, the Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo at the Harry Gwala District Municipality Council strategic planning session held on the 7th-9th January 2022.

Since then there has been 2 other strategic planning sessions, one on the 12th and 13th February which focused on the Budget and another from 16th-18th March which focused on Integrated Development Planning (IDP).

Mayor Nxumalo said it is important to be transparent and trustworthy. “We need to do the right thing even when no one is watching us. It paramount that as council and municipal officials we work together. There is a council WhatsApp group where we communicate. We need to respond accordingly and do so with respect. We must know that within the municipality we are all equal. The titles we have come after. We all need to be true to ourselves and work in order to deliver services to the community,” said Mayor Nxumalo during the first strategic planning session.

The Mayor said they are called upon to work together and

grow the region. He said that will only be achieved through hard work and also delivering services to the people of Harry Gwala.

The Municipal Manager Mrs A.N Dlamini, delivering the Municipal overview said the municipality is growing therefore there is a need to plan for the future.

“We must not just plan for now but for the future as Harry Gwala District’s population is growing, especially the youth. As Government we need to meet the expectation and the needs of the people. We need to provide services,” said Mrs Dlamini.

Other key presentations included the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Performance Management System (PMS), Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP), Risk Management and Anti-Fraud and Corruption, Communication Strategy and policy, Infrastructure Projects and Policy, Operations and Maintenance Plan and Water Services, Municipal Budget amongst others.

Strategic planning sessions are attended by councillors, the Municipal Manager, senior managers and other officials in the municipality.



Premier honoured to participate in the Harry Gwala Human Rights Day

THE KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Sihle Zikalala conveyed his appreciation at being part of the Human Rights Day celebrations held at the Harry Gwala District, stating that it was one of the districts bearing the rich history of producing a number of political icons that left an indelible mark in the history South Africa.

These political icons, said Zikalala, were recognized both locally and globally because of their unwavering stance in the fight for liberation during the dark days of apartheid.

Premier Zikalala was speaking at the Peace Initiative Hall in iXopo, during the Human Rights celebrations, which marked the 62nd commemoration of the Sharpeville massacre where 69 people lost their lives at the hands of apartheid police.

The Premier urged communities to work together to see to it that women's rights are protected so that there could be an end to gender based violence and femicide.

During the event different MECs from the province were in attendance along with the Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo as well as other Mayors from within the District.

"It is a humbling honour to mark Human Rights Day with the community of Harry Gwala District Municipality and KwaZulu-Natal here in Ixopo," Zikalala said.

He added the 21st of March 1960 marked a turning point in the history of South Africa and was a day where 69 African patriots were brutally massacred, as well as more than 180 protestors who were left injured in Sharpeville.

"Treated as subhuman and a cheap source of labour, their human rights were violated and their lives cut short for demanding to call their souls their own in the land of their birth.

Their crime or sin was to demand the abolition of the diabolic pass system, as well as the evil system of apartheid colonialism itself.

Today we remember heroes and heroines who were

injured and murdered in cold blood for adopting a principled stance against the apartheid legislation that required that every indigenous African male above the age of 16 must carry the dompas, day and night, and to produce it on demand by the police," said Zikalala.

He added: "History recalls that these were peaceful, unarmed civilians who fell so that we as a nation could rise and create a society that is truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, equal, and prosperous.

Our long history of struggle tells us that there are countless others, hundreds of thousands, who fell before them, and many more who followed after Sharpeville and Langa," said Zikalala.

He continued and said: "Compatriots, from the innocent blood that was shed at Sharpeville, Langa, Nyanga, Soweto, Mlazi, Boipatong, Edendale, Shobashobane, at nearby Mahhehle village and many parts of our country, we must renew our commitment to defend the gains of our democracy and that never and never again will the blood of our people be shed in vain.

Human Rights Day must remind us about the sanctity of life and the need to protect life. Let us all live up to the Bill of Rights which protects the right to life," Zikalala said.

"From the ruins of a violent past, the Premier said, South Africans must create a new society that advances peace and justice for all.

"On Human Rights Day, we call on all stakeholders to make a contribution to the call for a creation of a new, model citizen of the province of KwaZulu-Natal. We see such a model citizen as a person who rejects and condemns the use of violence to address disagreements," said Zikalala.

Mayor Nxumalo, said it was necessary that human rights are protected, he also warned those who infringed on the rights of other people that they will face the law," added the Premier.



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