



2023

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

HARRY GWALA
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 3



Together we Deliver and Grow



Harry Gwala District Municipality



@harrygwala



@harrygwala



www.harrygwaladm.gov.za

VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CORE VALUES

Transparency • Accountability • Consultation • Commitment and Honesty



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Ke nako... Get yourself registered to vote, it is the right thing to do



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza
Communications Manager

IT is with great excitement and warmth to welcome you to our very first publication for the financial year 2023/24. We thank you for remaining part of our family in the last financial year, and we hope for yet another exciting and fruitful one ahead. This newsletter is issued on a quarterly basis, with the intent of reporting on the progress of service delivery and other functional activities that our municipality takes priority in.

It is pleasing to report a successful and beneficial chain of interactions once again that we have had with different stakeholders, from the national government to standard development organizations. Led by Harry Gwala Development Agency we hosted a one-day event at iXopo focusing on developing the economy of Harry Gwala and empowering the business sector by capacitating all citizens with different skills in their respective fields. All this was possible by partnering with different government departments and organizations from the public and private sectors like the Department of Trade Industry and Competition, Harry Gwala District Agency, and local businesses. Local businesses benefited from handovers of materials and items courtesy of the Harry Gwala District Agency and Harry Gwala District Municipality.

In commemoration of Women's Month, we partnered successfully with the Independent Electoral Commission to honour and celebrate the heroic involvement of women in our society by empowering them with knowledge in different

activities including the functioning of the three spheres of government. Young women of Harry Gwala celebrated the month in style when they gathered in Behavioural Change Campaign for Maidens, which was held in Underberg aiming to educate them about the importance of keeping the culture of pureness alive.

In the spirit of promoting healthy living, creating, and maintaining relations, and boosting work morale, team Harry Gwala took part in the Umgeni Sports Tournament which was held in Stanger. Harry Gwala's female volleyball team victoriously came second place in the finals. We congratulate our female soccer employees for doing well in these tournaments.

It is our pleasure to report that we have hosted a successful Local Government Communicators Forum Conference which was held in Underberg under Dr Nkosazane Dlamini Local Municipality. As the district, we pride ourselves on hosting such a prestigious event. We are grateful to the Management and leadership of Harry Gwala for their support in this event. Further to that we have had a successful District Communicator Forum which was at uMzimkhulu municipality.

We hope for yet another fruitful financial year ahead and urge all citizens to make a difference in the forthcoming elections by going out in numbers and getting registered, allowing for easy and fair elections. Participating in elections is another way of communicating your message. It is the right and democratic thing to do!!



MISS NONTUTHUKO NGUBANE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)



MISS THABISILE NZIMANDE
COMMUNICATIONS INTERN



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



MISS FEZILE MNGONYAMA
COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Our government is accessible

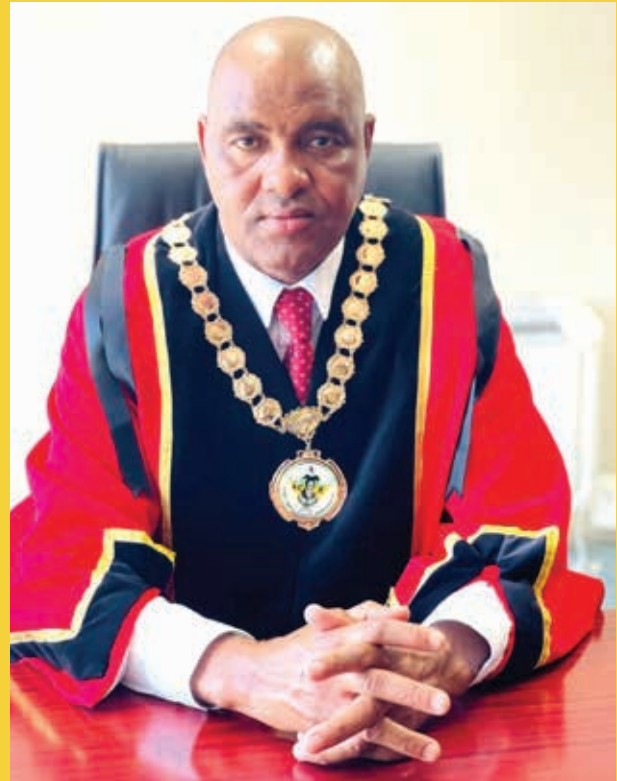
Women's Month. Mbokodo

THIS edition of our newsletter comes hot on the heels of our country's commemoration of the all-important Women's Month (August). Sadly, the month where we celebrate the role of women in the liberation of our country was marred by a gruesome discovery of the body of a 35-year-old Busisiwe Ngubo who was killed, allegedly by her policeman boyfriend. Busisiwe Ngubo was pregnant with triplets. Her body was discovered along the route to her home in the Ehlanzeni area in Ixopo. This is another horrific example of what our women citizens go through daily. The killing of Busisiwe Ngubo and her triplets sent shockwaves across our District, the province, and the entire nation. This is shameful and a gigantic blemish not only to our District but to our country.

We really need to do better as men. The incident is yet another call to all males across our country to do better, to protect our women and children, after all they are our daughters, sisters, wives/spouses, aunts, nieces, mothers, grandmothers and effectively they are the flowers of the nation. Let us take a stand as men of this District and lead by example in permanently finding solutions to end gender-based violence and all its roots and remnants.

To the family of Busisiwe Ngubo, I wish to pass deepest and sincerest condolences. To all victims of gender-based violence I wish to sympathize and dare apologize for the violence that has befallen on you at the hands of your male counterparts. This is such primitive behaviour from males who abuse women and children. It is disgusting and for it to end we must band together. If it calls for it, we must name and shame abusers, enough is enough. We must show appreciation to the police who have arrested the suspect in the Ngubo matter, to our disappointment a policeman is a suspect in the matter. The person whom we expect to protect our women in this country. We do hope justice will be done in this case.

Still on Women's Month, our country continued to once more celebrate the role played by women in the liberation of our country. Their role cannot and will never be eclipsed. Women are the bearers of humanity. Their strength runs deep, their resilience is unfading and we must honour them regularly and vociferously during Women's Month. Thank you mbokodo, thank you flowers of the nation for what you did for the liberation of the nation.



His Worship the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

This is such primitive behaviour from males who abuse women and children. It is disgusting and for it to end we must band together. If it calls for it, we must name and shame abusers, enough is enough.

September is Tourism Month

Tourism Month is celebrated in the month of September every year in our country. The aim of focusing on this important economic driver in South Africa is to highlight our country's diverse tourism that are on offer to local tourists and visitors alike. Moreover, we observe tourism month to highlight the sector's significant contribution to the local



His worship the Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo during the council meeting, where he was tabling his report.

economy and job creation. Tourism Month in the context of the Harry Gwala District Municipality does not only provide a platform for those in tourism at the local level but provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the milestones as we also celebrate our uniqueness. The year's World Tourism Day theme (which is celebrated on 27 September) is: "Tourism and Green Investments." As the District we offer unique attractions from rail tourism, to avitourism, mission tourism. We have the Sani Pass, the Mount Currie Nature Reserve, Giant's Cup Trail Rail, Bushmen's Neck Park to name but a few.

The District and all its sister Municipalities are ready to welcome visitors for a sho't left during the 2023 Tourism Month.

Visit by KZN Premier

In closing I wish to thank our Premier, the

Honourable Nomusa Dube-Neube, for convening a provincial government imbizo within our District. This was held in the month of August, and it was an important opportunity for our citizens from various sister Municipalities as they engaged with the Premier, all MEC of the provincial government.

Such engagements are vital in that the provincial government departments are responsible for many programmes affecting the livelihoods of our people including matters of education, health and social development; economic functions like agriculture and roads; and also, human settlements.

As part of strengthening the intergovernmental relations these izimbizo do well in bridging the gap and demonstrating that our government is accessible and that all three spheres are interconnected by the people we all serve.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD

Good governance requires promoting respect for the rule of law



Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke
Municipal Manager

AS we begin this financial year that commenced on the 1st of July 2023, I wish to welcome all our communities to the Harry Gwala District Newsletter. Our publications are released every quarter which results in four newsletters each year.

As this is the first issue, it will reflect quarterly progress against the key deliverables and goals that have been set by our District municipality.

The newsletter is a platform that is utilized to report and provide municipal information to our stakeholders and citizenry, especially in respect of water services related matters in line with our key functions.

For the first quarter it is important to reflect on three important areas, namely Good Governance, Performance and Accountability.

As we are all aware we are well underway in the first quarter of the current financial year and already we are in the mode of implementing programmes and projects following the approval of the municipal budget which was endorsed during an open Council meeting before the end of the previous financial year. Our municipal budget is projected at R927, 3 million, which is the first time in a long time that such a projection has been achieved.

The implementation of the District budget requires ethical leadership and adherence to municipal objectives that go hand in hand with the principles of good governance.

Moreover they are linked to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which is a socio-economic flagship programme of the African Union

(AU), which promotes specific objectives that are aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable growth and development, integrating the African Continent into the world economy, and accelerating the empowerment of women.

In keeping with the principles of good governance requires promoting respect for the rule of law and due processes to ensure that our municipality remains a transparent and accountable institution with a competent workforce, the fostering of inclusive and equitable participation, particularly in decision-making, to entrench a culture of democracy, peace and security, is also pertinent.

In terms of the core principles of NEPAD, Council meetings are held by way of an approved schedule of meeting dates that includes oversight structures, Section 79 Committees, the Audit Committee, and the District IGR Forums as well as the DDM Clusters with Technical and Political Hubs.

Our Risk Management Unit attends to measures that are required to ensure that the Municipality operates in an environment that promotes anti fraud and corruption. Awareness campaigns and programmes are planned and executed to yield positive results that manage and importantly avoid reports of fraud and corruption in the Municipality.

In response to the principle of public participation, our Municipality has developed a Public Participation Strategy that guides the implementation of Public Participation programmes. The adopted and current municipal budget reflects the views of the public in response to the principles of public participation as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic and in

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



**MR. KHULANI
MTHEMBENI BRIAN
MZIMELA**
Chief Financial Officer



**NTOMBIFUTHI NOMVUSELELO
FORTUNATE BUTHELEZI**
Social Service and
Development Planning



MR. NKULULEKO BIYASE
Infrastructure Services /
Acting Director:
Water Services



**MRS. THOBILE
THELMA
THIYANE-MAGAQA**
Corporate Services



His worship the Mayor Cll. Z.D Nxumalo and The MM Mr G.A Sineke before they stepped into the council meeting.

the Municipal Systems Act.

The District Municipality has a sound financial management system to meet the requirements of good governance. Audited financial statements are always submitted on time to the Provincial Treasury. The supply chain management unit strives to be effective and functional at all times.

The District has built a strong municipal administrative system in its quest and aspirations to be a meritocratic organization. Senior Management positions are filled pending one position for the Executive Director Water Services that will be filled as soon as the recruitment and appointment processes have been concluded.

The District has trained most Councillors and several employees in capacity building programmes so as to develop and strengthen various skills and abilities. Our organizational structure reflects that and a needs analysis has been conducted which is underpinned by a service delivery model.

Good governance also requires the Municipality to have an engagement platform with organised labour, which is why the municipality has an effective and functional Local Labour Forum.

Chapter 6 of the Local Government Municipal Systems act, as prescribed under Section 38 on Performance Management, requires municipalities to establish a performance management system that is commensurate with its resources, best suited to its circumstances and in line with priorities and objectives, indicators and targets contained in its Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

In accordance with the stipulated provisions and aspirations of good governance, our performance management system has been strengthened by way

of cascading Individual Performance Management (IPMS). The intention is to adequately recognise good performance and have sufficient consequences for underperformance. Prioritization of key performance indicators forms the yardstick for measuring municipal performance that will include outcomes and impact.

Measurable performance targets have been set for each of the development priorities and objectives. It is hoped that this will yield positive results in the overall performance of the Municipality.


The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa requires municipalities to provide democratic and accountable government for local communities. Section 152 provides for democratic accountability to ensure that services are provided to communities in a sustainable manner.

In compliance with Section 152 of the Constitution which encourages the involvement of communities and community organizations in matters of local government, our Council coordinates Open Council meetings, invites the public by issuing Council Notices, to ensure good governance and transparency.

In this financial year which is already well underway we will strive to ensure that we do not deviate from the legislative prescripts that guide the functions of local government and by doing so we will keep true to the tasks of ensuring that our communities benefit from all of us in the employ of the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

I hope that you will enjoy the many different municipal articles that are contained in our Newsletter for the first quarter.

I Thank You.



INTRODUCTION TO BLUE DROP

BLUE Drop Certification (BDC) programme is the regulation tool introduced by Department of Water and Sanitation with the aim of restoring the trust of the general public in the quality of tap water, by certifying the water quality of each municipality.

The Blue Drop programme seeks to identify and develop the core competencies required for the water sector that, will ensure gradual and sustainable improvement of drinking water management in South Africa. Blue Drop programme is a form of regulation that holds the intent to synergise the current goodwill exhibited by municipalities, businesses, Department of Public Works, as well as existing government support programmes to give the focus, commitment and planning needed to achieve excellence in drinking water management. The Blue Drop Assessment is the tool whereby incentive- and risk-based regulation is conducted in South Africa. The Blue Drop process has been developed by DWS as Regulator to inspire municipalities to supply good potable water to communities.

The Blue Drop process measures and compares the results of the performance of Water Service Institutions (municipality), and subsequently rewards (or penalises) the institution upon evidence of their excellence (or failures) according to the minimum standards or requirements that has been defined. Awareness of this performance is obtained by pressure via consumers, the media, politicians, businesses and NGOs. The strategy revolves around the identification of mediocre performing municipalities who consequently correct the identified shortcomings, as well as the introduction of competitiveness amongst the municipalities and using benchmarking in a market where competition is difficult to implement.

Blue Drop programme is unique to South Africa and it aims at addressing water quality challenges. The Blue Drop programme seeks to induce changes in behaviour of individuals and institutions to facilitate continuous improvement and adoption of best practice management and drinking water compliance throughout the drinking water value chain thus

abstraction, treatment, delivery, distribution, and end use. Subsequently, the Regulator responds by recognising and rewarding progressive improvement and excellent performance by well performing Water Services Institutions, whilst putting non-performing institutions under regulatory watch. The Blue Drop 2023 audit report is due to be released and will provide detailed diagnostics to assist Water Services Institutions to focus on specific areas to restore functionality of water supply systems and improve drinking water quality.

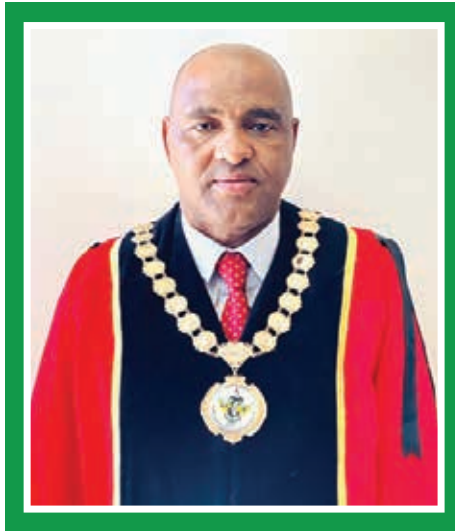
Whilst the Blue Drop assessment focuses on the entire value chain (source, pumping, treatment, reticulation network) of the drinking water business within the municipal (or other) water services business, the Blue Drop Risk Rating (BDRR) assessment focuses on critical risk areas within water services provision. The latter approach is a form of risk-based regulation which allows the municipality to identify and prioritise the critical risk areas within its drinking water process and to take corrective measures to abate these. Risk analysis is used by the Department of Water and Sanitation to identify, quantify and manage the corresponding risks according to their potential impact on human health and to ensure a prioritised and targeted regulation of high-risk municipalities. The Blue Drop score reflects the status of the complete water business over a period of 12 months based on full Blue Drop assessment, whereas the BDRR focuses on specific risk indicators at a specific time.

Harry Gwala District Municipality participates in both Blue Drop Assessment and Blue Drop Risk Rating. HGDM also complies by submitting the Progress Report on the Risks Identified. In recently publicised Blue Drop Progress Report 2022, Harry Gwala District Municipality is one of the municipalities in the KZN province that submitted its progress report on abating water supply risks. The overall percentage of BDRR is 36.6% which shows that the municipality is doing well in terms of abating the drinking water risks. In the report its only 3 water supply systems that still require a lot of work to abate the risks.

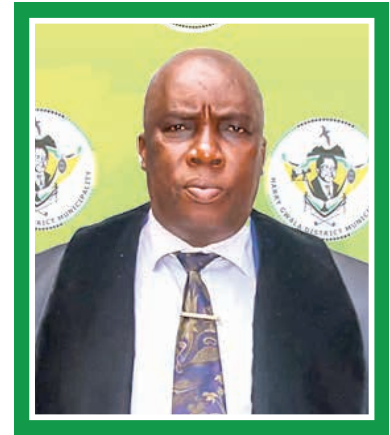
HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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



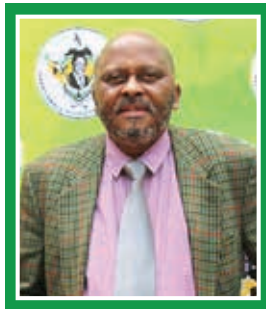
**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
CLLR. Z.D. NXUMALO**



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



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



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



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



**EXCO MEMBER
CLLR. Z. TSHANGASE**



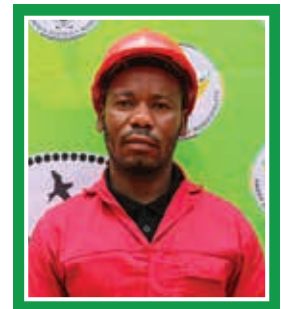
CLLR. T.G. SONI



CLLR. T.S.H. GAMEDE



CLLR. S.G MKHIZE



CLLR. X. MEMELA



CLLR. Z.M. NGIDI



CLLR. 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. MARNCÉ



CLLR. B. SIBENI



CLLR. S.R.L. NZIMANDE

TRADITIONAL LEADERS



INKOSI P.D.H. CHILIZA



INKOSI V.V. ZIMEMA



INKOSI M.S.I. ZULU



The Harry Gwala District Municipality hosted an Imbizo by the Premiers Office, where government declared war on drug and substance abuse. More than 5000 community members attended the successful event. During this event local councillors and Mayors were praised for ensuring that there is service delivery in the District.

Harry Gwala Declares War on Drugs

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality working in conjunction with the provincial government through its sector departments, and stakeholders within the region, including traditional leaders has declared war on drugs and substance abuse.

MECs from different Departments flocked into the District recently to form part of the KwaZulu-Natal Premier's Imbizo against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking where they engaged with communities in a series of meaningful events.

The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Nomusa Dube-Ncube could not make it to the Imbizo as expected due to other commitments, but she was represented by the Treasury MEC, Peggy Neliswa Nkonyeni

Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba, the KZN MEC for Sport, Arts, and Culture, who was deployed in Ward 15 at Mnywaneni in Donnybrook devoted time to honour and to pay homage to the remarkable life of 105-year-old Gogo Nokusho Ngcobo, who was born in 1918, a time marked by the closing chapters of the First World War. Gogo Ngcobo's life signifies a historic presence of more than a century.

Dr Mahlaba, who himself recently celebrated his own birthday a mere two days prior, arrived with gifts to shower and celebrate the centenarian.

Despite the years that have passed, Gogo Ngcobo's ability to walk is a testament to her enduring strength. As she wiped away tears of gratitude, Gogo Ngcobo

conveyed her thanks to MEC Mahlaba.

Throughout her lifetime, she gracefully birthed eight children, each still living, and now stands as a matriarch over a lineage of 48 grandchildren and an astounding 78 great-grandchildren.

Continuing his meaningful journey, Mahlaba proceeded to Creighton, where he unveiled the Creighton Public Library—a project worth R6.5 million.

Imbued with the spirit of progress and learning, the library stands as a fountain of knowledge for the community.

As he inaugurated this hub of wisdom, he also engaged with the younger generation, investing time in their growth.

The day's itinerary led him to a local police station, where he delved into a comprehensive progress report concerning crime-fighting efforts and personnel matters.

Dr Mahlaba's dedication to understanding the challenges of law enforcement underscored his commitment to safer and more harmonious communities.

Meanwhile, the MEC Agriculture and Rural Development in the province, Super Zuma together with the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Councillor, Zamo Nxumalo started the day by officially handing over more than R50 million worth of water projects to the communities of Gxalingenwa in Nkangala and



Community members had a privilege of voicing out their concerns and praises about service delivery during the Premier's Imbizo held at Ginyane Sport field under the Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality. In attendance we all the Mayors from the District, MEC's, Municipal Managers, Managers and officials from the Departments, municipalities and different stakeholders.

Centocow.

This was part of formally introducing contractors to communities as a sign that the projects have commenced and by the same token to also give the appointed contractors guidelines on how to strengthen ties with the communities during the course of implementing the projects.

His Worship, the Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo was impressed with the site establishment of both contractors. During this the Mayor and the MEC handed over agricultural equipment to the beneficiaries in these communities as part of encouraging and promoting the government concept of food sustainability, the one home one garden programme.

Mushrooms

The programme was met with a progressive local mushroom business where the local elderly, Zinhle Elizabeth Xaba of eSibomvini rural village started a mushroom business.

Xaba is a devotee of agriculture who survives through ploughing. She runs a successful mushroom business with her grandchild, Nonduduzo.

She is a good example that planting is printing your own money humbly boasting that she has never starved since she started working the soil.

She also has her own packaging.

The MEC and the Mayor intervened by ensuring to expand the business and also handed over agricultural equipment to support her business

Ward - 8 & 15 Councillors praised

The communities of Ngwagwane rural village in Ward 15, where the main event was held at the

Ginyane Sport field, stole the event by taking the opportunity to commend Councillor, Winneth Mtolo of Ward 15 and Councillor Mthobisi Dlamini of Ward 8 for their dedication to servicing the interest of the communities they represent to the best of their abilities.

The Councillors were praised when the community was afforded an opportunity to raise concerns related to service delivery challenges.

"We are proud to stand here and announce that the Councillors are delivering according to our mandate as communities. They listen and respect us and they respond to every challenge we have on time," said the community members .

They said it is like their first-time having Councillors in their area.

MEC Zuma was very pleased that there are Councillors who do not forget what they have been sworn in for and who are down to earth and serving the interests that put them in office. He added, the case of Dlamini, who is blind, is heartening because his work surpasses the work of previous Councillors who were not at all disabled and could see the challenges faced by the electorate. He said that Dlamini delivers services he could not see with his naked eyes.

Zuma encouraged people to follow on the footprints of Mrs Xaba of being committed to agriculture.

"As the government, we cannot service all of you as per your needs, but planting will sustain you because you will have food and also sell the rest to make money," said Zuma.

The communities were given planting equipment, seeds and groceries.





The Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, welcomed MEC, Mayors, Officials and Community Members during the Premier's Imbizo, where he expressed his gratitude on the work being done to ensure that there is service delivery in the community. MEC's, Mayors with head of Departments and Managers in different municipalities visited different programs including opening of a library, visiting the local police station, mushroom project to name a few.



PROJECT HANDOVER REPORT



The contractor at the Creighton water supply phase 2, is ready to start the project. A contractor was introduced to the community members and work will commence on the 01 September 2023 and it expected to be completed by 04 September 2024.

PROJECT NAME

CREIGHTON WATER SUPPLY PHASE 2 – 1.4km GRAVITY MAIN & 1.4km RISING MAIN

Contract No: HGDM 814/HGDM/2023
Local Municipality: Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
Beneficiary Wards: Ward 05, 06, 08 & 14
Beneficiary Villages: Centocow, Khukhulela, Creighton, and St Apollinaris Hospital
Beneficiary Households & Population: 2940 HH; 12054 people
Level of Service: Site Handover Date: 17 August 2023

- 1. Project Description:** CONSTRUCTION OF 1.4KM LONG 350mm DIAMETER RISING MAIN PIPELINE AND 1.4 KM 300mm DIAMETER CLEAR WATER GRAVITY MAIN BETWEEN CENTOCOW - UMZIMKHULU RIVER ABSTRACTION WORKS AND CENTOCOW WTW
- 2. Client:** HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
- 3. Project Manager:** Mr Sibonelo Memela
- 4. ISD Officer:** Miss Yonela Masika

- 5. Consulting Engineer:** ZIMILE CONSULTING ENGINEERS
- 6. Contractor:** Africa Green Technology & Sanitation
- 7. Project Funder:** MIG
- 8. Award Value:** R 19 884 629.86 incl. VAT & contingencies
- 9. Project Duration:** 12 Months
- 10. Commencement Date:** 01 September 2023
- 11. Completion Date:** 04 September 2023 (estimated at 2 weeks project kick-off meeting)
- 12. Project Scope of Works:**
 - The manufacture, supply, delivery to site, installation and commissioning of the following equipment through one trench:
 - 1.4km long DN350 PVC0 Class 16-20 pressurised pipeline
 - 1.4km long DN300 PVC0 Class 16 pipeline
 - Site establishment
 - Site clearance 2
 - Excavation for pipe trenches

- Pipe bedding, laying and backfilling
- Testing of pipelines
- Laying and connecting of pipelines
- Clearing, Cleaning and de-establishing
- Reinstating all areas affected by works to condition initially found at from the commencement of work.
- Associated valve chambers
- Road Crossings

13. Election & Duties of the PSC: ISD from HGDM assist with procedures of electing the PSC and outline their duties. 5 members of PSC to make sure they assist in:

- Sitting on monthly PSC meetings'
- Community engagements
- Assist with labour procurement processes
- Assist in sub-contracting processes
- Ensure labourers are remunerated accordingly as per latest approved government gazette

14. Schedule of Meetings (Technical & PSC): To be held on a monthly basis

15. Employment Targets: Students, CLO, Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Unskilled, Disabled and previously disadvantaged people: TBC

16. Employment Procedure and Minimum Requirements: ISD will confirm through PSC,

CLO and Counsellor

17. Training Targets: Labourers

18. Sub-Contracting Targets: As per SCM Policy

19. Implementation of Penalties: Should the contractor not complete the scope of the projects within the set targets without an approved extension of time will be charged at 0,0005 x contract value per calendar day).

20. Defects Liability Period: 12 Months after the practical completion

21. Submission of Construction Drawings: To be handed over to the contractor once appointed during the handover meeting.

22. Signing of All Contractual Documents: 14 days after the project kick-off meeting

23. Record of Assets to be submitted to Finance: to be recorded before completion.

24. Submission of O&M Plans & Procedure Manual: To be issued after practical completion.

25. Maintenance Staff Required on Completion of this Project: Operations and Maintenance team.

26. Payment process for Service Providers: As per the appointment

27. Required information that will disqualify payment of Service Providers:

28. Payment Dates for Employees on the Project: Last working day of the month.



Harry Gwala District Mayor together with the MEC for Agriculture in KwaZulu-Natal Mr. Super Zuma, visited the contractors for the water project which will commence soon.

P R O J E C T N A M E

GREATER SUMMERFIELD WATER SCHEME: REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADE OF THE GREATER SUMMERFIELD ABSTRACTION WORKS AND PUMPSTATION WITHIN HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Contract No.: HGDM812/HGDM/2023

Local Municipality: UMZIMKHULU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Beneficiary Wards: 15, 17, 20 and 21

Beneficiary Villages: Madakeni; Highlands; Hopewell; Strangersrest; Kroemhoek/Magqagqeni;

Ntshabeni; Nkungwini; Tembeni; Tembeni East; Tembeni West; Tembeni West Ext; Waschbank; Tafeni; Tafeni Main; Tafeni Ext; Chamto; Vukuzimele; Mastela; Diepkloof; Diepkloof Main; Diepkloof Ext; Thornbush; Long Clove; Summerfield; Mlaza; Gceni; Gcebeni; Phuma-



The MEC for Agriculture in KwaZulu-Natal together with the Harry Gwala District Mayor and officials visited the site for the water project to check progress.

muncu; Mathathane; Blema.

Beneficiary Households & Population: 4097 HH;
34 191

Level of Service: Site Handover Date: 17 August
2023

1. **Project Description:** Refurbishment and the upgrading of the abstraction works
2. **Client:** Harry Gwala District Manager
3. **Project Manager:** Mr Sibonelo Memela
4. **ISD Officer:**
5. **Consulting Engineer:** Zimile Consulting Engineering
6. **Contractor:** Sihlahlasiya'hluma Construction
7. **Project Funder:** MIG
8. **Award Value:** R 35 223 739.72 incl. VAT & Contingencies
9. **Project Duration:** 12 months
10. **Construction Commencement Date:** 31 August 2023 (estimated at 2 weeks post social handover)
11. **Completion Date:** TBC on the approved construction programme. 2
12. **Project Scope of Works:** Refurbishment and upgrade of the raw water abstraction structure including a wet well/sump and raw water pumps, pipework, electrification, telemetry system, transformers and Eskom application, and concrete works.
13. **Election & Duties of the PSC:** 5 members of PSC to make sure they assist in:
 - Sitting on monthly PSC meetings'
 - Community engagements
 - Assist with labour procurement processes
 - Assist in sub-contracting processes
 - Ensure labourers are remunerated accordingly

as per the latest approved government gazette

14. **Schedule of Meetings (Technical & PSC):** To take place on a monthly basis
15. **Employment Targets:** Students, CLO, Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Unskilled: Contractor to submit Labour histogram at the start of the project.
16. **Employment Procedure and Minimum Requirements:** Through PSC, CLO and Councillor
17. **Training Targets:** Labourers
18. **Sub-Contracting Targets:** 20% of the contract value
19. **Implementation of Penalties:** 0.0005 x construction value per calendar day, as per the GCC 3 rd Edition, 2015, Clause 5.13
20. **Defects Liability Period:** 12 months
21. **Submission of Construction Drawings:** to be issued to the contractor at the project kick-off meeting
22. **Signing of All Contractual Documents:** 14 days after the project kick-off meeting
23. **Record of Assets to be submitted to Finance:** to be recorded before completion
24. **Submission of O&M Plans & Procedure Manual:** to be submitted after completion
25. **Maintenance Staff Required on Completion of this Project:** Operations and Maintenance team
26. **Payment process for Service Providers:** As per the appointment
27. **Required information that will disqualify payment of Service Providers:**
28. **Payment Dates for Employees on the Project:** Last working day of the month.



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







His worship the mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality welcomes communicators from across the KwaZulu-Natal who attended the Local Government Communicators Forum held at Underberg in Sani Pass. Mayor Nxumalo in his welcome address spoke about the important of communicating the government plans to community members.

Harry Gwala Mayor praises the importance of communicators

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor, Councillor Zamokwakhe Nxumalo has praised the significance of government communicators citing that; “some people would take the job light as it looks luxurious not knowing its hardships of having to create relations with different media houses and having to convince journalists who are always ardent to destroying or putting the government under a bad light”.

Nxumalo said this at Underberg in Sani Pass Hotel during the KwaZulu-Natal Local Government Communicators Forum.

The forum is aimed at strengthening and sharing knowledge amongst communicators on how to maximally extol government work to all communities using various forms of communication including journalists in broadcast, newsprint and online.

This is not easy to do, said Nxumalo, as newsrooms are pestered with a litany of news stories which almost always leads to shelving of government’s positive stories and when they do, they need to ensure that the articles written about government are balanced and give the other side the right to comment.

“It is a very hard job to convince newsrooms about stories of service delivery, hence they are perceived to be boring stories that do not bring sales,” said Cllr

Nxumalo.

He said the forum was very important since the elections are around the corner and would be helpful in sharing ideas on how to tackle fake news that seek to eclipse good news and everything good done by the government.

“The forum is important because you will come out of here having additional knowledge on how to encourage and teach people about the importance of voting as it is everyone’s democratic right to make one’s own decision in democratically choosing preferred leaders,” said Cllr Nxumalo.

Voting, added Nxumalo, is pivotal and the government, through communicators, need to encourage community members to participate in the strengthening of hard fought for democracy.

This was a two-day programme, attended by the communicators across the province.

During the course of the forum, the South African Local Government Association (Salga) presented different topics where everyone in attendance was given a platform to share their knowledge in dealing with crucial circumstances involving the South African media.

“We feel privileged with humbled honour to welcome you all at this forum hosted by our beautiful



Communicators from different municipality in KwaZulu-Natal appreciated a positive welcome remarks by his worship the Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo.

District as evidenced by the majestic Drakensberg Mountain range which most of you. COGTA could not have chosen a better venue in a Local Municipality within the District to converge great minds and intellects to brainstorm better communication strategies,” said Nxumalo.

The LGCF meeting, was very important as it will help to facilitate peer learning between officials responsible for communication across municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal.

“We hope this platform will enable and support the various communicators present with key tools and strategies for them to better play their role of informing and educating citizens of their respective municipalities. As communicators you must know that your role is fundamentally critical as it is the bridge between us politicians, us as municipalities and the community at large,” said Nxumalo.

Use this platform, he added, to exchange critical ideas, innovations, and good practices in the management of sensitive situations such as disasters



and protests.

The Mayor concluded by saying: “It is important to note that the participation of our communities is vital in our planning and service delivery initiatives. We always seek to create platforms through which we communicate with our people over and above those that are stipulated in local government legislations. Still, there is a lot more that still needs to be done to ensure there is consistent communication in our District,” he said, adding that budget constraints that communications departments face across all spheres of government and all municipalities are undesirable given the importance of the communicators in institutions of government.

“It has not gone unnoticed that more funds need to be allocated to our communications units in all municipalities for them to realize all that I have alluded to,” concluded Nxumalo.

It has not gone unnoticed that more funds need to be allocated to our communications units in all municipalities for them to realize all that I have alluded to.



In an effort to ensure service delivery for the community of Harry Gwala District, it councillors have been provided a necessary education skill. Here the Harry Gwala District Municipality hosted a municipal governance programme training.

Municipal governance training for Councillors

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality recently hosted a municipal governance programme training for the Councillors from the sister municipalities elected to serve in the District.

This is part of a 12-month programme which aims to equip Councillors to better discharge their function of making sure there is service delivery within the District.

The learning outcomes include interpreting and analysing the impact of legislative framework in local government; applying the principles of budgeting within a municipality; preparing and analysing municipal financial reports.

The learning outcomes also include applying principles of computerised systems to manage data and reports relevant to the public sector administration. The training also assists with demonstrating an understanding of the background and founding provision of the Constitution and how these impacts on local government.

Upon completion as well Councillors will be

equipped with identifying and explaining the broad spectrum of municipal and related administrative legislation and regulations that guide and direct the daily functioning of local government.

Although the latest training was took place over a five-day period, other Councillors within the District, who commenced with the 12-month long training ahead of others have completed the programme and will graduate soon.

Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo said it was important to equip Councillors with the necessary skills so that they can do their job better and make the decisions that will have a positive impact on service delivery.

“When we are conversing about financial management and municipal governance, we want all our Councillors to have the necessary skills to tackle any discussions and make the correct decisions which ensure there is service delivery in our District,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The programme undertaken through the Department of Corporate Services within the District Municipality.

Women's commission convenes strategic planning session to empower female Councillors



It was a two days of sharing idea and plans on women empowerment during the Harry Gwala strategic planning session. Different department presented as well as Local Municipalities and the district on their strategies to ensure their voice and the women in the district are heard.

FEMALE Councillors in the Harry Gwala District Municipality participated in a successful two-day strategic planning session tailor-made at empowering them at Ixopo recently under the theme “inspiring leadership for economically capable and adequately skilled women in our society”.

The strategic planning session’s aim was also to evaluate current progress made by the Women Commissions in all Local Municipalities under the District and to discuss strategies to enhance the work of Commissions to advance issues of women throughout the region.

The Deputy Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr. T.N Jojozi, emphasised, during her opening remarks, that the women of this country have a major role in making sure that they have a say in policy making as it affects them, and that they had a task of making sure that they receive enough budget for women related programmes.

“We should use this strategic planning session to put our needs as women in the District. We should also use this opportunity to say we need more budget to be able to make an impactful change in the lives of women in our District especially for women in the rural areas who have been left behind for the longest time,” said Jojozi.

The chairperson for women’s commission Cllr. Z.P Dlamini said women’s voices need to be heard and positive change needs to be spearheaded by such commissions.

Guest speakers for this planning session included Mr. Tim Dennis, who motivated the female

Councillors and female leaders within the District’s municipalities encouraging them to lead by example.

The Women’s Commission is a section 79 (a) committee. This committee reports directly to the Council. In the current term the committee is functional and sits quarterly and it has a budget for each financial year.

The committee has a chairperson and comprises of 14 Councillors and two female HOD’s, COO, female senior managers, and the CEO of the Harry Gwala Development Agency.

The main objective of the Women’s Commission is to elevate the involvement of women in leadership and strategic key positions in local government to address gender equity in local government and to capacitate female political leaders to inspire women in their respective wards/ communities. It also seeks to have fully functional section 79(a) committees for all sister municipalities of the Harry Gwala District.

Key functions of the Women’s Commission are as follows, but not limited to:

- Promote Gender Equity and Equality
- Work towards profile building of women Councillors for effective capacity building
- Ensure gender mainstreaming and equity within municipal processes
- Re-affirm and strengthen partnerships and networks that support women in local government and other spheres of government and civil society.
- Engage council and its structures on empowerment issues affecting women in administration, politics and community.



The Harry Gwala District together with the Harry Gwala Development Agency visited different business and site to provide the necessary assistance which will ensure that they strive and become successful.

Harry Gwala District Municipality & HGDA support emerging businesses

IN a bid to grow emerging businesses as part of boosting the District's economy and to open channels of creating job opportunities, the Harry Gwala District Municipality in conjunction with its agency, the Harry Gwala Development Agency have turned their focus to supporting the local SMMEs.

The District Municipality and the Agency have donated equipment to local businesses; through the Local Economic Development (LED) unit as per the applications they submitted seeking assistance for their business.

The District Mayor, Councillor, ZD Nxumalo, the Municipality Speaker, Cllr MSD Mdunge and the CEO of the Agency, Ms Antoinette Whyte officially handed over donations to all Municipalities in the District.

They started in Kokstad where they received a warm welcome by the Deputy Mayor of Greater Kokstad Municipality, Cllr K. Walker, during the

first segment of the handovers.

This initiative intends to make funding and equipment available with the aim of ensuring that adequate support is provided for the promotion of sustainable emerging enterprises that exist within the district.

Cllr J. Msiya joined the second segment in UMzimkhulu and the Mayor of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality; Cllr B. E. Ngubo joined the final two in Ixopo.

All representatives of local municipalities expressed enormous gratitude towards this initiative stating that; it will impact positively on the development of local businesses and economic growth.

Miss Buhle Bhengu, a catering business owner from Kokstad, who is one of the beneficiaries said in her word of appreciation keynote; 'On behalf of all those that benefited today, I would like to thank the Harry Gwala District Agency especially Ms Whyte



His worship the Mayor of the District Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, together with the Speaker Cllr. S. Mdunge visited different business and sites.

for assisting us in growing our already functioning businesses .

It is with great excitement to receive equipment that will maximize productivity and going forward we can only go bigger.’

On his keynote address, Cllr ZD Nxumalo, the Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality thanked and encouraged the HGDA CEO and the entire team to continue working tirelessly in enriching the business sector in the district as it makes it easy for locals to easily access different services within the district as they will not have to travel far to access such services, especially those that were known to be scarce in our district.

Amongst items that were handed over were a borehole, generators, salon equipment, gas stove, pots and different materials essential for different SMME’s in their respective areas of service.

The event was concluded by the CEO of Harry Gwala District Agency, Ms ACR Whyte by taking the attendees on a walkabout at the hub, giving brief descriptions of what services are rendered around the hub.

Harry Gwala District Municipality, in partnership with The Independent Electoral Commission(IEC), converged at the Umzimkhulu TVET College, recently to commemorate Women’s Month.

The event was aimed at capacitating women in ways to empower themselves, occupy their roles in civil societies and the political sphere as well as cement their place in the economy and social development.

Women from different walks of life convened in high spirits to celebrate their heroic involvement in society as a whole. On behalf of women in the Harry Gwala District, Deputy Mayor of the Harry Gwala



District Municipality Cllr TN. Jojozi was one of the panellists on the day. Amongst other attendees was the Mayor of Umzimkhulu Local Municipality, Cllr J. Msiya, management and officials of IEC and Harry Gwala District Municipality.

In her message of support, Mrs Masinga, who is the Provincial Electoral Officer encouraged women to support and build each other in all aspects of life. She further stated that women are the backbone of the nation.

Cllr T.N Jojozi focused more on the role of young women, famously known as ‘ama 2k’ in democratic processes on her keynote address, where she said; “There is more gap to be filled by young women in the development and improvement of South Africa as a whole. Young women are encouraged to dominate women representation in different spheres.”

She further said that she was delighted to be part of the Harry Gwala District Municipality Council, which is dominated by women.



The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition visited the District in a fight against poverty and to assist business in the area.

Harry Gwala District strengthens ties with the Department of Trade and Industry to tackle poverty

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality has taken its fight against poverty to another level by enhancing intergovernmental relations to ensure dealing head-on with poverty and job scarcity within the district.

The District has recently partnered to strengthen ties with the national Department of Trade, Industry and Competition together with its sister Municipalities to tackle matters that result in poverty in the entire region.

The Harry Gwala District is amongst the poverty-stricken districts in the KwaZulu-Natal province dominated by the rural Municipalities.

The region is also dominated by farming but the land is still in the hands of the minority, however the district continues to make strides and is in the centre of ensuring transformation to encourage youth farming, which is the major economic boost in the district.

The District has recently held a business seminar at the Peace Initiative Hall in Ixopo with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition in the presence of the department's Deputy Minister, Nomalungelo Gina.

The programme was aimed at uplifting communities in terms of business development. The Harry Gwala Deputy Mayor, Councillor T.N. Jojozi, the municipality Speaker, Cllr M.S.D. Mdunge and uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr E.B. Ngubo participated in the seminar to ensure betterment of the lives of the communities within the District.

Speaking at the event, Cllr Jojozi commended such initiatives saying they are very important as they are meant to uplift their poverty-stricken district.

She was grateful that the Department has identified their District to ensure that the region gradually swerves away from dry fields of poverty and becomes the District that contributes significantly to the province's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Deputy Minister, Gina further identified a number of projects in different departments that will be watched closely to measure their impact and also receive direct assistance from her Department in ensuring that they benefit the youth of the District.

She was worried about the fact that aspiring entrepreneurs and businesses are still struggling to access funding in a democratic country but assured that they are making strides to unlock such challenges.

However, the main purpose of the day was that the programme intended to close impediments and create a platform for the empowerment of businesspeople in the District.

Different stakeholders formed part of the event where they displayed marketing material in the demarcated exhibition area.

Entities who are responsible for business development including SEDA, SEFA, ITHALA and many others were also part of the exhibitors to help assist aspiring entrepreneurs with the know-how on how to open business and get access to funding as well as to expose businesspeople to different funding agencies as well as to assist entrepreneurs with registration processes.

Harry Gwala partners with IEC to celebrate women's month



In an effort to educate women on their right to vote and right to participate in elections the IEC together with the district had a women's month celebration.

HARRY Gwala District Municipality, in partnership with The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), gathered at the Umzimkhulu TVET College, today, 16 August 2023 in commemoration of Women's month.

The event is aimed at capacitating women on ways to empower themselves, occupy their roles in civil societies, political sphere, economic and social development.

Women from different walks of life gathered in high spirits to celebrate their heroic involvement in society as a whole.

On behalf of women in the Harry Gwala District, Deputy Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Cllr TN. Jojozi was one of the panelists of the day. Amongst other attendees was the Mayor of Umzimkhulu Local Municipality, Cllr J. Msiya,

management and officials of IEC and Harry Gwala District Municipality.

In her message of support, Mrs Masinga, who is the Provincial Electoral Officer encouraged women to support and build each other in all aspects of life. She further stated that women are the backbone of the nation.

Cllr T.N Jojozi was tasked to focus more on the role of young women, famously known as ama 2k' in democratic processes in her keynote address, where she said; "There is more gap to be filled by young women in the development and improvement of South Africa as a whole. Young women are encouraged to dominate women representation in different spheres,"

She further said that she's delighted to be part of the Harry Gwala District Municipality Council, which is dominated by women.

Alarms installed to detect smoke thereby leading to early prevention of incidents



The Smoke detector are a solution in fighting fires that destroys shacks and some times even take lives. An installation of smoke detector was done in more than 50 shacks in Shayamoya area. Community members appreciated the initiative by the District, UBuhlebezwe Municipality and The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) in KwaZulu-Natal.

TO minimise shack fire incidents in the informal settlements, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance, and Traditional Affairs' (Cogta) Disaster Management Directorate in collaboration with disaster units from both the Harry Gwala District Municipality and the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality have installed fire alarms to alert and detect fires in the Shayamoya area in IXopo.

The fire alarms detect smoke in shacks that have caught alight and notify neighbours to help save lives.

More than 60 smoke alarms have been installed in the area.

Disaster management teams that visited the area described the initiative as a solution to the shack fire incidents.

The aim of installing these smoke detectors is to minimise fire incidents, especially in the informal settlements which in some cases may lead to fatalities.

The fire alarm can detect the smoke from about 10 metres away.

This is the best way to stop a shack fire because once the alarm has detected that there is smoke in the house it rings, thereby signaling to neighbours that there is a problem.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo said this was a great initiative for the area.

"As the District we are excited about this initiative as it could save properties and save lives," said Mayor Nxumalo.

Zibuyile Mkhize, a beneficiary, said she is excited about having a smoke detector alarm in her shack.

"This area is not safe, there could be a fire anytime with this smoke alarm I feel safer. It is exciting that we have such a device. Anything can happen in informal settlements. The fire alarm will help and alert us about the fire while it still at a distance. We will be safe with our kids," said Mkhize.



It was a good day to celebrate hard work and dedication by our district councillors and an employee who excelled and graduated with flying colours getting their NQF Level 5 in National Certificate in Municipal Governance and NQF Level 6 in Municipal Finance Management.

Education, a necessary skill for service delivery

IT was a joyous occasion in the Harry Gwala District Municipality recently as Councillors waltz across the stage proudly and gleefully in Durban during their graduation to mark their milestones of their academic journeys.

Nine Councillors including the Speaker, Deputy Mayor and Chief whip graduated with a national certificate in municipal governance NQF Level 5 while one employee graduated with a certificate in municipal finance management NQF Level 6.

Deputy Mayor Cllr. T.N. Jojozi, Speaker Cllr. M.S.D. Mdunge, Chief Whip Cllr. N. Mhatu, Cllr. Z.R. Tshazi, Cllr. N.W. Dladla, Cllr. T.G. Soni and Harry Gwala District former Councillors, N. Siziba, Cllr. Z.C. Khumalo and Cllr. L.A. Zondi, all graduated with flying colours. Miss K Khathi received a certificate in municipal finance management.

In congratulating the graduates, District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo said this was a proud moment as and hoped it will assist in unblocking impediments and lead to accelerating service delivery in the District.

“I would like to congratulate all those that have graduated. Indeed, this is a milestone for our Councillors as it means they will be able to be impactful when taking decisions on service delivery matters. Education is very necessary for our Council as they need to be informed about municipality laws, finances, and policies. We need employees

and Councillors who are equipped and skilled to optimally perform their functions. The Municipality will continue to invest in education so that both our Councillors and employees get the necessary skills,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

Cllr. Z.R Tshazi, said during the graduation ceremony that they appreciate the opportunity given by the Municipality for them to further their studies.

“As Councillors we are voted for to sit in Council for five years. If you have entered with a matric certificate only you must not exist your term with the same qualification. You need to familiarise yourself with policies. Sometimes we are expected to know certain jargon used in finance and other technical terms, getting this qualification has assisted us in knowing all those jargon and terms and important they mean. This qualification will help us to have a better run Municipality and make sure there is service delivery in our community,” said Cllr. Tshazi.

Prof. Kingston Shabangu, an Executive Director at Bantubanye Skills, congratulated the graduates.

“Congratulations are in order to all of you for your hard work and dedication. Now you will have to apply what you have learnt in your real work situations to improve production in your respective organisations. You have a responsibility to work towards making our country a better place to live in and to address societal challenges and maintain good quality services all the time,” said Prof. Shabangu.



Forum to help speed up service delivery were launched in Harry Gwala District Municipality. Community members attended.

HGDM Forums Relaunch

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality held the HGDM Forums Relaunch at Peace Initiative Hall in Ixopo, during the Youth Month.

All local municipalities participated in this initiative to establish an institutional framework for the integrated functioning of the municipality to promote and facilitate relations within the district and local municipalities as well as communities within the region.

These structures are there to provide mechanisms and procedures to facilitate the resolution of intergovernmental disputes; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Deputy Mayor of HDM; Cllr T.N. Jojozi during her keynote address thanked chairpersons of the forums for their selfless dedication in serving communities without expecting any financial gain. “Society needs to be educated and informed about civil matters which are the very reason these forums are put in place for. On that note, I urge every resident to play a role in bettering South

Africa. Use this forum to have discussions on health matters and any other issues that are pressurizing our communities where you can voice out your concerns and seek assistance. As the municipality we are here to guide and assist,” said the Deputy Mayor.

Amongst other attendees were the Speaker of HGDM Cllr M.S.D. Mdunge, the Deputy Mayor of uBuhlebezwe Municipality Cllr Z.L. Miya.

The official launch of the forums was conducted as follows:

- Men’s forum
- Women’s forum
- Gender forum
- Disability Forum
- Religious Forum and.
- Senior Citizens Forum.

Stakeholders such as the Department of Education, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Department of Sports, Arts and Culture were also part of the programme.



It was a beautiful scene when girl proudly broke in traditional songs and dance during the Behavioural Change Campaign at Emqatsheni in Underberg.

THE FLOWERS OF HARRY GWALA KEEP BLOOMING

THERE were characterisations of beautiful scenes when the ‘flowers’ from all over the Harry Gwala District Municipality descended to the homestead of Chief A.B. Duma at EMqatsheni in Underberg recently as part of the programme under the Behavioural Change Campaign.

The Campaign did not only excite the maidens but the whole Kingdom of the District. The joy and pride expressed by different speakers was proof enough that this tradition of preserving virginity is still taken in high regard as it is one of the most effective tools to combat the spread of sexually transmitted disease, which is one of the challenges that South Africa has been struggling to combat for years.

In his welcoming remarks, Chief A. B. Duma expressed his gratitude and enormous pride to the maidens for making the District proud and for them being the flowers that continue to bloom beautifully in the region.

This initiative was made a success by different stakeholders namely, the Harry Gwala District Municipality, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sports Arts and Culture, the Department of Social

Development, Department of Health, the South African Police Services (SAPS), and different local organizations from the private sector.

This event was aimed at teaching and maintaining the indigenous culture of young women keeping themselves pure by continuing to preserve their virginity.

It also encourages and accommodates younger virgins to be able to celebrate their virginity till they are old enough to attend Ukhosi Womhlanga (Reed Dance).

On behalf of the District Mayor Z.D. Nxumalo, Cllr S.G. Mkhize said; ‘It brings so much joy to see that such pure beauty still exists, especially when we see successful professionals still keeping themselves pure. This does not only help keep you safe from sexually transmitted diseases but also shows respect and honour for our beautiful culture as Africans. This event portrays so much significance as it took place a month prior to the famous annual Umkhosi Wohlanga,’ said Cllr Mkhize.

In closing Mr Musa Mseleku advised the young women to keep taking care of themselves and take pride in keeping the tradition alive.



Councillors and officials encourage good behaviour in the youth so that their fight social ills and have a bright future.

“Continue to make us proud”

“The Harry Gwala District Mayor, Councillor, Z.D. Nxumalo was referring to the District Netball Team recently crowned the 2023 Telkom Junior Champions”



The Harry Gwala District Under 19 netball team made the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo proud of them when they won the 2023 Telkom Netball Junior Championship which were held in CapeTown.

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Z.D. Nxumalo has commended the Harry Gwala District’s Under 19 Netball Team for putting the District firmly on the sporting map for clinching the title of being the 2023 Telkom Netball Junior Champions.

This was after the team participated in the tournament of 14 teams, held at DF Malan High School, Belville in Cape Town, where they emerged and became victorious, in the finals against the Ekurhuleni Team. They played the games for four days to the final where they thrashed Ekurhuleni 51-22. This resulted in them being crowned the 2023 Telkom Netball Junior Champions.

Mayor Nxumalo referred to them as the future of Netball and congratulated the Netball Federation in the District. “As the District we would like to congratulate the Harry Gwala Netball under 19’s for being crowned champions. These young ladies are the future of Netball,” he said adding that; “We encourage them to continue working hard and we hope to see them one day representing our District in the National team.

The Mayor also congratulated the coach and the entire technical staff, the Netball Federation in the District, and all who are involved in making sure that Netball in the region grows.

Mayor Nxumalo said the Under 19 team should be motivated by Refiloe ‘Fifie’ Nkentsa from Shayamoya in Kokstad, who represents the District in the South African National team (Proteas) as she played in the Netball World Cup held in Cape Town recently.

The Under 19 team received gold medals for being champions and one player was invited for trials for the Under 19 S.A Team.

The Harry Gwala Netball Federation Chairperson Ms. Nonhle Nkomo said she was proud of the team and thanked the Municipality for the support. “It was a great opportunity for Under 19 girls to showcase their talents and an exposure resulting in them being hailed as Champions. On behalf of the Harry Gwala Netball, I would like to thank our District Municipality with transport support in all our events until becoming champions”.

“We also want to thank Harry Gwala DSAC who supported us with the accommodation, and we would like to state that we are nothing without our stakeholders,” said Nkomo.

Nkomo also congratulated the coach Berto Mnikina, and the girls, saying; “we are very proud of them and happy that they are flying our Harry Gwala District flag high. The Netball World Cup has been amazing and played an immense role in encouraging the local players.



It was a proud moment when employees of Harry Gwala District represented the municipality at the Umngeni-Uthukela work and play games in Stanger.

Work and play gets even better and more fun

IN the spirit of creating and maintaining relations with its clients, Umngeni-Uthukela Water hosted its annual sports tournament and this time around these fun games took place in Stanger.

This event promotes healthy living and team building but also boosts work morale amongst workers from different organisations and it is believed that it increases productivity amongst workers.

“Building working relationship with clients is key to the long-term success and sustainability of a business, this is why it is good exercise to prioritize such in initiatives such as these,” said Mr S. Dlamini of the iLembe District Municipality speaking at the awards ceremony to mark the conclusion of the initiative.

Having a strong connection based on trust and communication helps clients feel more secure and connected with a brand, and it can also lead to growing customer retention and repeat purchase rate.

Employees from the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Ilembe District Municipality, Siza Water, UMngeni Water, Ugu District Municipality, Msunduzi Municipality, Umgungundlovu District Municipality, Msinsi Resorts and King Cetshwayo Municipality took part in netball, volleyball and soccer games. Team Ugu came in first position and EThekwini took the number one spot in soccer. HGDM female volleyball team scooped second position and HGDM male volleyball team were placed number 3 in the finals. Msunduzi male team led the scores from the beginning until the end as they delightfully took the first position back to the City of Choice.

It was with great excitement to the Harry Gwala District Municipality that the team took home medals after representing the municipality well in very competitive games. On behalf of Harry Gwala District Municipality, the Corporate Services Department encouraged all workers to partake in such games as they have positive outcomes in staff morale.



Mayor Nxumalo: “We will make our indelible footprints”

The Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo is adamant that the Harry Gwala Horse racing will reach the highest peak and become the most distinguished and glamorous to attract renowned investors



The Harry Gwala District Summer Cup, promises to reach the standard of the Dundee July as it grows every year.

As part of promoting rural indigenous sports in the KwaZulu-Natal province, the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Councillor, Z.D. Nxumalo has commended the immense and evident improvement of the annual horse racing event, the Dundee July.

“We are following its footprints and as the District we are boastful of such improvements and with ours as well, a similar annual event, which has become a major economic boost in line with ensuring township and rural economy.

The Mayor’s remarks came in the wake of the much talked about Dundee July horse-racing, which seeks to gradually attract attention from the distinguished and glamorous Durban July that draws international

attention to the KwaZulu-Natal province.

He said this conveying his gratitude to the Harry Gwala jockeys who were part of the racing with their horses becoming amongst the top ten leading horses in this year’s race.

The 2023 Dundee July exceeded expectations in all three main aspects of the calendar event which are horseracing, fashion, and entertainment.

The glamorous event was organized by the KZN Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture in collaboration with local Municipalities, KZN Traditional Horse Racing and Breeding Association, and various stakeholders.

Since the entire Dundee July is centered around rural horse-racing, the jockeys, and their well-trained



Fashion, rural horse racing and entertainment were the order of the day at the Dundee July. Jockey from the Harry Gwala District represented the District well.

horses were raring to go to prove their prowess in this growing sport.

Twelve races were staged, and the main race was won by Lindani Dube from Mpumalanga province who rode his horse, Alpha and Omega to victory.

A jockey from the Harry Gwala District, Khanyisa Mbhele with his horse Eliya won race 7, and jockey Sivuyile Kabele came in position four in the same race with his horse Chitha Mkhulise Lincura with his horse Zahlangana came out second in Race 10.

Other horses that took part in the Dundee July from the District included: Slingo, Ndlondlo, Vulakuvaliwe, Gqokelaphandle, and Laptop to name a few.

Leadership, managers, and officials from the District in support of the jockeys and rural horse racing attended the event.

The District's Summer Cup race will be held towards the end of the year. Cllr Nxumalo further

congratulated the horses who represented the District well at the Dundee July.

The MEC for DSAC, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba, expressed excitement at the successful hosting of 2023 Dundee July saying it has been one of the best. "The growth of this event augurs well for our sports tourism objectives. These are the kinds of economic boosts that small towns like Dundee need. I am pleased that this is an initiative started by our own people and can only grow in stature through proper and coordinated support from the government and the private sector," said Mahlaba.

After all the races, fashion parades, and entertainment during the day, the 2023 extravaganza of the Dundee July was concluded with an entertainment event whose MC was Tha Simelane aka Nontandakubukwa. Locals braced the overnight cold weather and partied until the wee hours of the following day.



Leadership from the District including uMzimkhulu Mayor her Worship Cllr. J. Msiya attended the Dundee July with some of the councillors and officials from the District and Local Municipalities.



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