



# 2023

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

HARRY GWALA  
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 4



*Together we Deliver and Grow*



Harry Gwala District Municipality



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[www.harrygwaladm.gov.za](http://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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# Service delivery never stops, although the festive season is at our doorstep



**Mr Ndabezitha Tenza**  
Communications Manager

**A**LLOW me to welcome you to the second issue for the financial year 2023/2024. Once again, we hope you will enjoy reading it. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for being faithful and loyal to this publication. Ours remains simple; to keep the community and all stakeholders informed. The publication of this newsletter takes place on a quarterly basis, with the intent to report on the progress of service delivery as well as other functional activities that our municipality takes priority in.

In partnership with different stakeholders, we managed to partake in several initiatives, from the local to national government level. With the festive season approaching and back to school coming soon in January, it is a known fact that some families struggle to make ends meet and it was with that in mind that Mayor Z. Nxumalo embarked on a school uniform donation campaign to rural schools in and around the Harry Gwala region. A few schools that benefited include Nomzamo Primary, Summerfield Primary, Ngcesheni, and Sangcwaba Primary. Local business owners also lent a hand in making this initiative a success. The Department of Human Settlements also contributed immensely to changing the lives of the people in the Kroemhoek area under the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality wherein sixty brand new homes were handed over to needy beneficiaries.

The senior citizens of Harry Gwala departed in high spirits after the municipality hosted an exciting send-off to the Golden Games that took place in Margate in September. We are proud to have an active senior citizenry in our district. In raising

awareness during Dementia Month (September), MEC for the Department of Social Development, Mrs. N. Khoza hosted an Elderly Engagement event in Endwebu, where health services and gifts to elderly people were handed out. The municipality takes pride in participating in such initiatives as it empowers the targeted citizens and promotes healthy living.

In the promotion of the annual Thusong Week, the Harry Gwala Municipality led by Deputy Mayor Nosisa Jojozi collaborated with Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Municipality and different government departments by bringing services to the people in a one-stop-shop setting at Bulwer taxi rank. The handover of Ntuso Farm in Bulwer brought back hope for local businesses in farming, Mayor Nxumalo and the Department of Rural Development handed over a 2500-hectare farm. As part of celebrating Heritage Month, the management and employees of Harry Gwala Municipality hosted two events in recognition of the cultural wealth of our diverse nation. This is in line with the mosaic approach adopted by the municipality regarding diversity management.

Kicking off October as Transport Month, Mayor Nxumalo handed over a fleet of 12 vehicles, which the municipality is in full possession of, aiming to aid the Water Services Department which boosted the morale of employees of that department. As part of keeping employee morale alive, the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) hosted a sports tournament at Jefry Zungu Sports Field, where all local municipalities participated. Thank you



**MISS NONTUTHUKO NGUBANE**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)



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



# May we all be safe during the period and beyond

**G**REETINGS once more to all our people within the Harry Gwala District. It is my utmost pleasure to provide necessary updates on the work of the Municipality and any other related pertinent matter thereof.

## **Kempdale Dam Project**

Through the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Izimbizo and other Mayoral engagements, as the Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality I am compelled to visit various communities within the District and to give proper and latest updates on any matter regarding the roles and functions of the District, including challenges, plans and achievements.

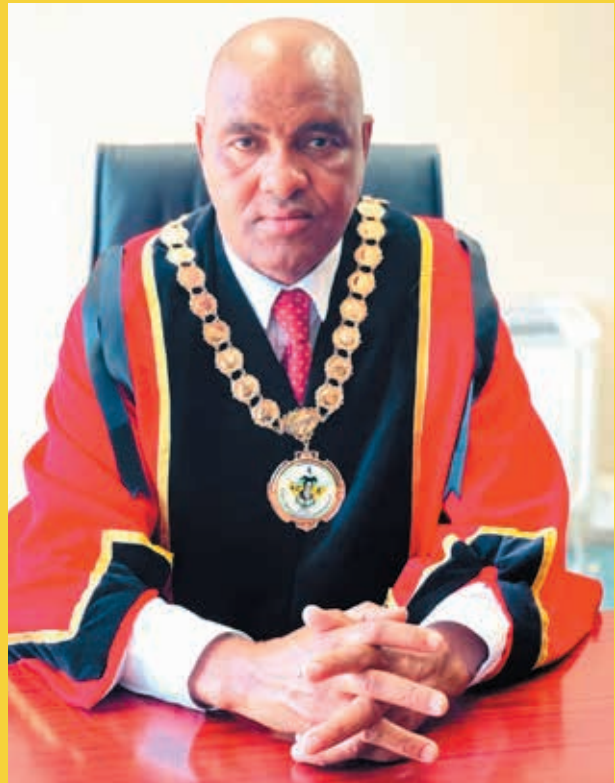
I wish to utilize this platform to provide an update on the Kempdale Dam Project. The Harry Gwala District Municipality proposes to expand the existing Kempdale Dam. The height of the existing dam wall will be increased from four meters to eight meters and the dam will have a total surface area of approximately 42 hectares, an increase of 29 hectares. The capacity of the dam will increase from 215 055m<sup>3</sup> to 2 140 000m<sup>3</sup> of water. The dam will primarily be used to supply water to Kokstad Town.

During an Imbizo in Kokstad, I allayed concerns that the delays in commencing with the construction of a rising wall for the Kempdale Dam project are due to any failure or neglect from the side of the District. I assured the people of Kokstad that the Municipality is on course to fulfill the 100-year water conservation plan.

The main challenge that we have been experiencing is the appointment of a suitable contractor to implement the project. Bidders have been invited on three occasions to bid for the contract as per specifications set out in the relevant tender documents. However, looking at the scale of the work to be done and the submitted bids, our administration has resolved that the crop of bidders that have submitted bids in the previous calls for submission and on the recently re-advertised bid have to fully grasp the gravitas of the project.

It would be irresponsible of us to appoint a service provider for the sake of doing so and then in the long run that bidder fails to complete the job.

I wish to state that the project is ongoing and we will not cease with its intended implementation.



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

**The extent of poverty across all municipalities in our country is severe and the most affected by poverty are rural communities and small towns which by design encapsulates the definition of our District.**

## **Indigent Register**

By the nature of its developmental mandate, local government is concerned with the challenge of poverty. Moreover, because of the allocation of powers and functions across the spheres of

government, some of the most important services for the poor fall in the jurisdiction of the sphere of government closest to the people, which is the local government sphere, in particular water and sanitation. The fact that water and sanitation are not only the financial lifeblood of municipalities but that they are traditionally provided only to those who can pay for them underscores the imperatives of fully understanding the inter-relationship between poverty and local government in implementing the indigent registration for those of our communities who can barely make ends meet.

This and the downturn in our economy are largely exacerbated by external and global factors, we are compelled as the local government sphere to promote and maximally implement such programs in our communities as we are in full grasp of what they are going through.

The extent of poverty across all municipalities in our country is severe and the most affected by poverty are rural communities and small towns which by design encapsulates the definition of our District.

As the Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, I appeal to the communities within our regions, that qualify to receive indigent support to register to the District to get free basic water and to avoid getting billed for water when they qualify to receive it for free.

The families qualifying for the program should be earning R 4200 per household.

### **Amnesty**

The Harry Gwala District Municipality Council has taken a resolution to offer yet another amnesty for water bills for a period of six months. It is important to note that the amnesty will depend on the duration set to pay off that debt owed in a particular household.



**If we have not done our best we must isolate where the challenges are and we must have solutions to address those challenges in earnest as our people cannot wait any longer for the services we are supposed to render to them.**



It is inevitable therefore that the amounts payable to settle the debts will differ from home to home.

Homeowners and customers have been granted this extension to demonstrate a show of good faith from the part of the District that our customers do in fact intend to settle and/or pay off their debts in



**His worship the Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo presenting for the Harry Gwala District Municipality during the Salga Meeting.**

order for us to be able to meet their expectations. The extension was following numerous requests from customers for the amnesty and after a thorough assessment and viability of this program by our administration and thereafter the Council. All customers owing the Municipality are urged to take advantage of the amnesty.

### **Festive Season**

As I concluded I wish for all of us within the District including the leadership of the sister municipalities within our region to reflect on the year 2023. Socrates, a Greek philosopher, shared in one of his writings in his work titled “Apology” published in 399 BC about the importance of self-reflection in finding purpose and meaning in life. He approached this by questioning and examining human thought processes, actions, and beliefs, in which he stated if we delve in we will gain a deeper understanding of ourselves and can strive for personal growth and a more fulfilling existence.

This quote serves as a reminder that regularly reflecting on our lives, values, and goals is crucial for personal development. On the aspect of local government, the closest sphere of government to the people, I challenge all of us, Mayors, Councillors, officials, and partners of all the municipalities within the District to search in the deepest parts of our hearts when we reflect and do an honest and thorough assessment of whether have we done the best we could for our communities and if so we must further question ourselves and provide answers as to what more can we do. If we have not done our best we must isolate where the challenges are and we must have solutions to address those challenges in earnest as our people cannot wait any longer for the services we are supposed to render to them.

As I close, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2024. May we all be safe during the period and beyond.  
I thank you.

## MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD

# I wish to extend my gratitude to all our stakeholders for their support and commitment



**Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke**  
Municipal Manager

**I**T is my pleasure to meet you again on this page wherein we engage on matters of service delivery. Our last engagement was on good governance, performance, and accountability which are the pillars of service delivery in a democratic state. We also talked about our aspirations to be a meritocratic institution. In this issue, we shall focus on internal controls and change management as they are the architectures of meritocratic organizations.

It has been a year now since I joined the municipality. Several plans have been put into action and others are still underway. One of the most pressing issues is internal control measures. Internal Auditing is amongst the internal control measures that must be in place. Section 165 (1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, (Act No. 56 of 2003) provides that each Municipality and each Municipal Entity must have an Internal audit unit that must prepare a risk-based audit plan and an internal audit program for the year. The Internal Audit Unit is responsible for advising the Accounting Officer of the municipality and reporting to the audit committee on matters of internal controls and risk management, amongst other things.

As a control mechanism, our Internal Audit Unit reports directly to my office. This is done to ensure that there is close monitoring regarding control measures. Internal Audit plays a critical role in supporting our finance department by making sure that the Auditor General does its work properly and within the prescribed timeframe. The municipality is currently being audited by AG and is complying with

the submission of all of the requested information.

In joining the municipality, a year ago with the current management, we deliberated on the issue of changes that should be introduced to bring about financial viability in the municipality. Historically, people are prone and are resistant to changes that are brought by management due to a cocktail of issues that include internal and external factors.

Cost containment measures that have been introduced are yielding positive results as far as our financial management is concerned. As part of the changes, our management meetings are extended to all managers including area managers. This is done to ensure that our decisions are data-driven. Consultation is underway with all stakeholders regarding the introduction of the Biometrics system that will control employee attendance at work. This will assist employees to manage their workload effectively. The individual performance management system (IPMS) is one of the changes that is being introduced with the aim of achieving high performance from employees. As a municipality, we humbly request that these changes be embraced since they inculcate growth and development of the District Municipality which will lead to the enhancement of the delivery of services to our communities, particularly water and sanitation.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my gratitude to all our stakeholders for their support and commitment to our work from the beginning of the year. I wish every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I Thank You.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



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



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



**MR. NKULULEKO BIYASE**  
Infrastructure Services



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



**MR. LINDUMUSA  
GWALA**  
Water Services





# The legislation enforces the district to provide good quality water

**H**ARRY 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 jurisdiction in terms of the Municipal Structures Act (Act No. 117 of 1998). This constitutional responsibility is carried out by the district taking into cognisance 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.

As Water Services Authority HGDM is responsible for monitoring and reporting water and wastewater quality that is being supplied to communities. Umgeni Water is an accredited water testing laboratory contracted by the HGDM to assist with monitoring water and wastewater quality by analysing water samples against SANS

241 Standards. HGDM also has a team of samplers responsible for taking samples from identified sample sites and submitting them to Umgeni Water for compliance analysis.

The number of sampling points that the municipality monitors as per the sampling program is 107 sites. These 107 sample sites are monitored monthly to ensure that HGDM communities are provided with potable water and to ensure that effluent that is discharged to the natural environment meets the DWS standards.

For Water Quality, A total of 72 sites are sampled and analysed every month. The collected potable water samples are analysed for key water quality indicators and assessed against SANS 241-1:2015 drinking water standards.

For wastewater quality, A total of 35 sites are sampled monthly. The collected wastewater effluent discharges are analysed against relevant effluent standards as prescribed by the Department of Water and Sanitation. i.e., General Effluent Standards for plants >2 ML/d and General Authorization for plants <2ML/d.





Festive Message by His Worship the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

# *Wishing you Safety and Happiness over the Festive Period*

I wish to make a few important comments as we prepare ourselves to close the year and spend time with our families during the festive season.

To the Councillors that form the Council which is chief and final decision-making structure in Municipalities and all the committees of Council, I wish to commend and urge you all for playing your part in exercising your roles of monitoring the work of the administration in the various committees. The oversight role that we all play as the elected leaders is the essential.

Testament to this is the regular sitting as per schedule of Council and all its committees in order to deliberate on the progress on the implementation of the needs of communities and to gauge where the pressure points are and to rectify where it is needed.

I also wish to commend the officials of our Municipality led by Municipal Manager, Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke. A committed workforce translates to services on the ground and the realisation of the needs of communities. Rain or sunshine our officials are always willing to lend a hand, most importantly to discharge the responsibilities attached to the roles and functions that are a mandate for our District.

I wish to urge the officials to continue actively implement sustainable services to our District communities. Good governance is pivotal and we must continue to protect the image of the District.

As we approach the festive season period, I wish to urge all

our employees, management, councillors and the community to be safe during this period. We must enjoy ourselves within limits. We must be always safe on the roads. Festive season is a time to connect, recharge and relax. We need all of us well and healthy in the new year. Be safe, be cautious and be responsible.

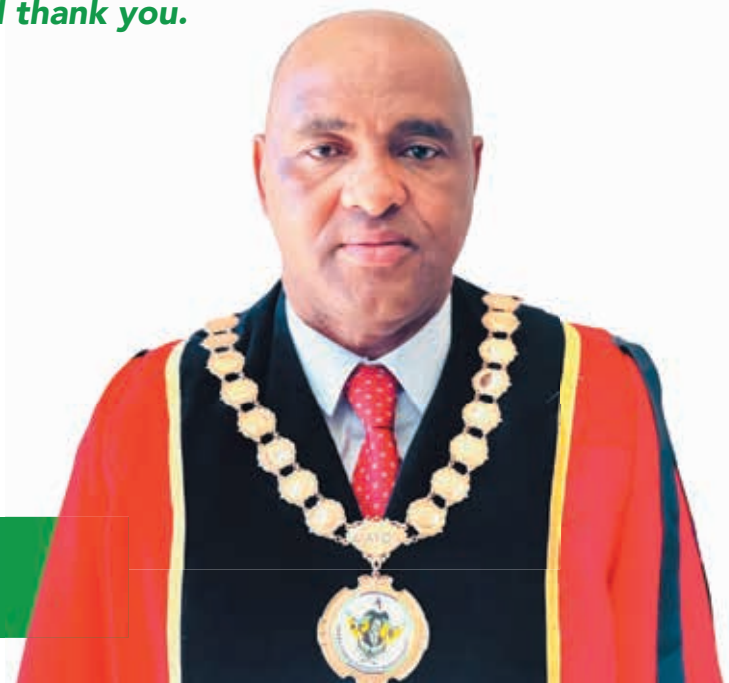
Our essential services will be operational during this period. Our Councillors will be on recess but they will be available to various communities.

I would also not forget that with all the challenges we faced this year, the SPRINGBOKS winning the 2023 rugby World Cup was a highlight and a reminder that we are stronger together.

***With this I wish all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2024.***

***May our God be with you, your families and loved ones.***

***I thank you.***



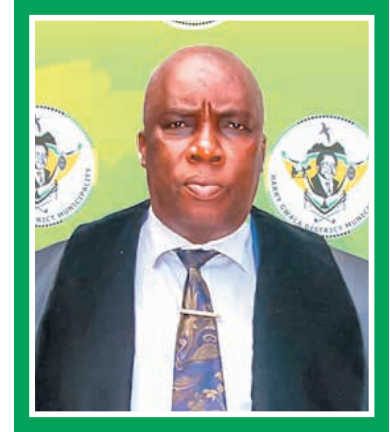
# HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



**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**



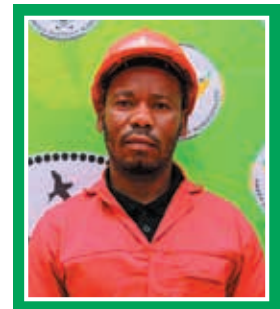
**CLLR. T.G. SONI**



**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 Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo together with the Ubuhlebezwe Mayor Cllr. E.B Ngubo at Sangcwaba Primary School presenting the uniform to the pupils.

# Harry Gwala District Mayor hands over school uniforms to rural schools

**A**N initiative aimed at encouraging learners from rural areas to value education and frown at it by dropping out of school continues to gain momentum in the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

This is after the Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor, His Worship Councillor Zamo Nxumalo, started a campaign of visiting rural schools wherein he donated school uniforms to the needy learners.

In addition to encouraging learners in rural schools to stay the course to uplift themselves and their families, this initiative also serves as a motivation to them to dream bigger about their

future.

Recently the Cllr Nxumalo took the initiative to various targeted schools under all the local municipalities with the District, namely Ubuhlebezwe, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, uMzimkhulu and the Greater Kokstad Municipality

This donation amounts to a total of R100 000 in school uniforms. Each school visited within the various local municipalities received uniforms worth R25 000. Schools which were

In this project, Mayor Nxumalo was accompanied by the businessman from Masiqhambe Trading 22, Mr. Meshack Ndongeni, from Kokstad. He was also accompanied by the Ubuhlebezwe Municipality





**It was a joyous day when the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo visited schools donating school uniform, four schools received uniforms. This initiative was done in partnership with a local business man from Masiqhame Trading 22, Mr. Meshack Ndongeni.**

Mayor, Cllr Bathobile Ngubo, the Speaker of Dr. Dlamini-Zuma Municipality, Cllr. Sfiso Phoswa.

Mayor Nxumalo said it is important that rural schools get all the necessary support and encouragement to stay the course of obtaining their education. "It is important to us as a government that rural schools get the necessary support and encouragement they need," added Cllr Nxumalo.

"We want to see Mayors and Ministers coming from these rural schools. We thought it would be important that we visit all four of our local municipalities and identify schools that need uniform support. We want our learners to know that we support them and want them to be educated and that they must keep on coming to school and dream big," added Cllr Nxumalo.

"This government is concerned about the well-being of our learners, that is why we have decided to come now to school during the year and not wait for January," added Mayor Nxumalo. Ndongeni who is a farmer, said he had a difficult upbringing especially as his dad died while he was seven years

old, but he wants to encourage pupils to be educated so that their dreams can come true.

"I was touched and felt that I needed to play my part when I heard Mayor Nxumalo speak about his wish to visit schools and donate uniforms, I was very touched as I also lost my dad at a young age and had a difficult upbringing, but I was able to get educated and now I am a farmer. I wish the same for you (pupils) to get educated," said Ndongeni.

The School Governing Body chairperson for Sangwaba Primary School, Mr. Bhekhlakhe Ndlovu, thanked the District Mayor and the Ndongeni for their contribution to this initiative.

"I am very happy, and we appreciate what the Mayor and Ndongeni have done for us, it is like a dream that schools like us in the rural areas get uniforms. In the past we used to travel to school barefoot, we traveled long distances, but we stayed in school. Now our kids are getting the opportunity of a lifetime, uniforms for free. This brings hope to our kids that the government cares for them and their dreams," added the SGB chairperson.



MEC for Social Development in KwaZulu-Natal Mrs Nonhlanhla Khoza visited the Ndwebu community in Ward 14, which was part of the ongoing awareness campaign on Alzheimer disease.



## MEC Khoza calls for an end to witchcraft accusations against the elderly

**T**HE MEC for the Department of Social Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Nonhlanhla Khoza, has called for concrete actions to combat the disturbing trend of violence against elderly individuals falsely accused of practicing witchcraft.

Expressing grave concern over recent incidents of elderly individuals being victims being accused of witchcraft, MEC Khoza emphasized the need for immediate action.

Addressing the issue at Ndwebu Community Hall in Ward 14 under the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality, in the Harry Gwala District, MEC Khoza said belief in witchcraft had tragically torn families apart.

The visit to the Ndwebu community was part of an ongoing awareness campaign on Alzheimer disease, where MEC Khoza was joined by Deputy Mayor of the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality,

Cllr Zinhle Miya, Councillor Sibongiseni Mdunge who is the Speaker of the Harry Gwala District Municipality and local traditional leaders.

The Department of Social Development has been actively spreading awareness about Alzheimer disease and dementia throughout the province, aligning with World Alzheimer Month and World Alzheimer Day commemorated in the month of September. These events aim to challenge the stigma associated with Alzheimer and dementia, while emphasizing the importance of identifying risk factors and taking preventative measures against dementia. MEC Khoza stressed that in rural communities, elderly individuals often suffered abuse and unfounded accusations of witchcraft.

“We selected the Ndwebu area to engage with elderly members of the Dlamini and Msomi clans after being alerted by the local Councillor to the challenges they face. It is crucial to collaborate with





**Traditional leadership as well as the Harry Gwala District leadership were part of the campaign on Alzheimer disease in Ndwebu area. Community members attended in numbers. Elderly people received gift in this event.**



traditional leaders and communities to address these issues affecting our elderly citizens,” the MEC explained, adding that these accusations and acts of violence were not only morally reprehensible, but also illegal. “In our diverse and culturally rich landscape, elderly individuals are invaluable community members, repositories of wisdom and guardians of our heritage. Accusations of witchcraft, rooted in superstition, not only jeopardize their safety and well-being, but also corrodes the very fabric of our society,” added the MEC before urging communities to unite and unequivocally condemn elderly abuse.

“We call on all residents to refrain from participating in such harmful practices that violate the rights of the elderly. It is imperative that we stand together as a community to protect our older

citizens and promote a culture of respect, care and compassion. Addressing this issue requires tackling its underlying causes, often stemming from social, economic, and cultural factors,” the MEC said.

During her visit to the area, MEC Khoza also took the time to celebrate with three centenarians, Mariah Nhlangulela, Ntombile Masango, and Ntombi Ngubo. She showered the three senior citizens with different gifts, including grocery vouchers. About 50 older persons also received Social Relief of Distress (SRD) worth R1 378 each. The Department of Social Development is committed to collaborating with community leaders, civil society organizations, and law enforcement agencies to raise awareness about the rights and dignity of elderly individuals and to provide support and counseling to those affected.





# MEC Zuma assures women a place in the agricultural sector



The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Super Zuma together with the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo officially handed over the Ntuso Farm under Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality.





**Ntuso Farm was officially handed over to its owners in an event held in Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma area.**

**T**HE KwaZulu-Natal MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Super Zuma, has urged women and young people to take part and fully participate in the agricultural sector, stating that there is a need for them to play an integral role in transforming the sector.

MEC Zuma said this during the handover of the Ntuso farm which is a 2500-hectare farm situated in the outskirts of Bulwer, under Dr. Nkosazane Dlamini Zuma (Dr. NDZ) Local Municipality, in the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

The MEC was accompanied by the Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, Dr. NDZ Mayor, Cllr Sindisiwe Msomi, government leaders from various spheres of government, management, and officials from the Department and from the municipalities. MEC Zuma said more women should be in farming. “As a department, we pride ourselves on the hard work and success we witness throughout the province when inspecting projects managed by female farmers. I want to assure all young aspiring female farmers that we are committed to alleviating emerging farmers into commercial farmers,” said Zuma, adding that the young people have been trained and acquainted with modern and innovative agricultural methods as it is critical that young people with knowledge

are engrossed into the sector in order to increase agricultural produce.

“I have observed a great deal of commitment and dedication showcased by our female farmers, which is why we have devised strategies that seek to introduce farmers to commercial markets and even venture into international markets,” said MEC Zuma. The MEC further commended the Ntuso Farm for effectively tapping into the market as they are already supplying Pick ‘n Pay, Spar, and other retail stores. “I’m calling upon all women to soldier on and emulate acts of resilience showcased by our former heroines. The likes of the great Lillian Ngoyi, Winnie Madikizela Mandela, and many others. To overcome poverty, inequality, and unemployment in our province, women and youth should organize themselves into business niches that cater to each demand in the value chain.” MEC Zuma stated. Mayor Nxumalo in his welcome remarks said the government wants to see more women in farming and as the municipality, they continue to support female-owned businesses. “Our Harry Gwala Development Agency had a business seminar a few days ago where female-owned businesses received the necessary business financial support, we want to continue to support more businesses that are owned by women. This should motivate others to also get into business,” said Mayor Nxumalo.





# Heritage Day Celebrations

The Harry Gwala District Municipality celebrated Heritage Day, in recognition of the cultural wealth of our nation. Employees were dressed in cultural clothing, remembering the different cultural heritage that makes up the South African population. There was also cultural food, dance, and celebrations.









# PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

## GREATER MNQUMENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME - PHASE 5

# UPGRADE OF GREATER MNQUMENI WATER TREATMENT WORKS

CONTRACT NO: HGDM769/HGDM/2021

TYPE OF GRANT: MIG

Locality	Coordinates	Lat	S 30° 27' 21.18"
		Long	E 30° 00' 40.48"
	Local Municipality	uMzimbhulu LM	
	Ward	12, 13, 14 & 16	

### SERVICE PROVIDERS

Engineers	ECA Consulting Engineers
ISD	HGDM Internal
Contractor	Aqua Plan SA

### BENEFICIARIES

Population	33 456
No. of Beneficiaries	5576 Households
2014 beneficiaries	5576 HH

### CONTRACT FINANCIALS (all figures incl. VAT)

Contract Award Value	R 49 494 949.49
Percentage Value of Works Completed (incl retention)	78%

### SCOPE OF WORK:

The work under this contract shall be executed under a single, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical contract. The main Contractor shall be the Civil Contractor and/or Mechanical Contractor and shall appoint his/her own Civil and/or Mechanical and Electrical Sub-Contractors.

The work under this Contract shall include for the full design, compilation of construction documents and supply of all materials, machinery, electrical and control panels, measuring and control equipment, cabling and all necessary units and equipment required at each location, labour, tools, plant, workmanship, supervision, transport, water, compressed air, electric power and everything necessary for the due and proper construction and completion of the Works, and for upholding, operating and maintaining the Works during the Contract Period, all as specified in the Employer's Requirements as shown or described hereafter.

Raw water will be abstracted from the Ibisi River and pumped to a raw water storage reservoir on the site of the existing treatment plant. The proposed

treatment plant shall be fed raw water from the existing reservoir. The final treated water shall be supplied to the existing potable storage reservoir.

The proposed water treatment plant shall be contained in a designated building (plant building). The package plant treatment facility shall consist of the following:

- Supply of raw water from the raw water reservoir to the inlet of the flocculator / flocculation basin
- Addition /Injection of treatment chemicals including chlorine, coagulants and flocculants/flocculant aids.
- Lime Stabilisation
- Make-up units and dosing tanks for treatment chemicals
- Rapid mixing of chemicals and raw water
- Slow mixing / flocculation in a dedicated flocculation basin/channel/coiled pipe or baffled inlet to the clarifier
- Clarification of flocculated water in rectangular/round/conventional or high-rate clarifiers
- Storage of clarified water in a pump sump/clear well
- Pumping of clarified water to pressure filters
- Sand filtration of clarified water in pressure filters
- Storage of filtered water in a clear well
- Backwashing facilities for the pressure filters including air scouring
- Disinfection of treated water and dosing equipment
- Pumping of final water to existing storage reservoir
- Water treatment plant residual handling and wash water recovery (sludge, backwashing and rinsing water);

The final treated water shall be disinfected by means of chlorine gas and transferred from the filtered water storage tank to the existing treated water reservoirs for distribution to the community. The scope of works for the high lift pumping scheme comprises the following:

- Restoration of the design capacity of the pumpstations, including refurbishments where required.



### **ACTUAL / POTENTIAL PROBLEMS**

The project was suspended on 10 May 2023, due to environmental issues, the Contractor have done remedial works as per the corrective action plan. Construction proceeded on 3 July 2023

### **DELAYS & EXTENSION OF TIME CLAIMS**

Standing time due to suspended works was submitted to the 15 December 2023

### **TRAINING & SKILLS TRANSFER**

Training will be completed under the project using a provisional sum allowance in the Contract. Training also includes employment of trainee technicians as well as formal training of local employees.

### **GENERAL REMARKS**

Site Handover Certificate was signed 26 October 2022

#### **Progress:**

The Project has been suspended due to an environmental non-compliance issue. The contractor had to correct these issues. Construction can proceed on 3 July 2023.

The only outstanding Deliveries of equipment are:

- 1) Sandfilter skids
- 2) Pump skids

#### **Problems Identified:**

##### **Challenges:**

- Due to a delay from the Contractor to initiate the subcontractor appointment procedure the plant building construction are delayed.
- Rain days



**Civil Works - Preparation for sand filters platform**



**Tank Slab Plinths in progress**



**Clarifiers, Coughulation and flocculation tank, Backwashers, Clearwater storage tank, preparation of sand filters platform and chlorine building room**

# HIGHFLATS WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

## 1. PROJECT SCOPE

Under this contract, the contractor was required to construct a Highflats water supply scheme and the works comprise the following:

- Construction of 2050m - 90mm Ø uPVC class 20 raising main.
- Construction of 1 267,20m - 75mm Ø HDPE pipe, reticulation line.
- Construction of Pump house and borehole

equipping.

- Install 150KL 10m Elevated steel tank with all fittings and associated valves.
- Road Crossing x 2, through horizontal drilling.
- Communal Standpipes -10.
- Scour valves – 2.
- Air valves – 3.
- Route & Valves markers installation – 40.

## 2. PROJECT LOCATION

The project falls under ward 13, Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality, within the Harry Gwala District municipality.



## 3. CONTRACT DETAILS

Contract Number: HGDM 746/  
HGDM/2021  
Contractor: Makize Plumbing and  
Projects  
Contract Amount: R 8 044 554,48  
Commencement Date: 13 June 2022  
Completion Date: 17 March 2023

## 4. BENEFICIARIES

The Project will benefit the whole highflats community of 562 households.

## 5. JOBS SECURED

Employment opportunities the project created are as follows:

- Temporary Jobs - 12

## 6. SITE PHOTOS

### 6.1. Pump house



### 6.2. 150 KL elevated Storage tank



### 6.3. Standpipe





# NCAKUBANE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

The project falls under Ward 01 under Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality. The project includes the construction of a ~1.8km of bulk pipeline and associated chambers, Construction of Operator House, Construction of Booster Pump House and Repairs at the existing Ncakubane Water Treatment Works. The project was awarded to Tower City Trading to the Value of R8 972 162,00. The WTW

is operational, and a Tanker Filling Point has been included in the Scope of Works to provide for the immediate communities. The Tanker Filling Point has been completed, tested and final snagging is under way. The whole project is currently nearing Practical Completion Stage.

Number of Households to benefit: 2504



**Abstraction PS – completed and operational.**



**Existing Raw Water Reservoir and Commissioning of such. Water proofing required by specialist sub Contractor.**



**Clarification Zone: Clarifier, Settled Water Tank, and Flocculation Tank – operational.**



**Completion and operation of Tanker Filling Station – final snagging underway.**



**Booster PS – final completion snagging works underway.**



**Previous construction of Mahehle command reservoir inlet chamber. Chamber roof slab, specials and pipework to be installed.**



**Completed valves on RM2 Pipeline.**

# KHUKHULELA WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

The project falls under Ward 05 under the Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma local Municipality. The project has 3 contracts and 2 of these contracts are now at the Practical Completion Stage. The contractor that is currently on site is Sihlahlasiya' Hluma Construction which is responsible for the Construction of the IML Storage Reservoir. The project comprised of the construction of Construction of 500KL Tank Reservoir, Water Treatment Package and Reticulation at Mpumulwane Village, Construction of 4,6km rising

main 90-160mm diameter ductile iron / UPVC pipeline, installation and equipping of boreholes. The project was awarded to Msalela Transport to the value of R27 492 878,76, Makize's Plumbing and Projects to the value of R7 547 081,08 and Sihlahlasiya' Hluma Construction to the value of R19 123 915,51. The project will benefit the villages of a total number of Mpumulwane, Dazini, Mnamaneni, Gxalingenwa. The project will benefit a total of 2984 Households.



**Construction of the Guardhouse at the Package Plant and Reservoir Site in Khukhulela.**



**Slab Construction for the Package Plant for the Khukhulela Water Scheme**



**Final Inspections at the 500kl Clear Water Storage Reservoir at the Khukhulela Water Scheme**



**Installed Package plant with the storage tanks**



**Completed Standpipe at Mpumulwane Village**



**Completed Guardhouse at the Package Plant Site**





District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo had an engagement with the public on service delivery during a radio interview on Gagasi FM recently.

# Harry Gwala Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo on Gagasi FM as part of accountability and promoting transparency

**A**S part of ensuring community engagement, public participation, and accountability, the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Councillor, Z.D. Nxumalo continues to use local and provincial media to continue informing communities of his district about his Municipality's pace of infrastructural developments in relation to water and sanitation projects.

Evident of this was the recent interview he (Cllr Nxumalo) conducted with the KwaZulu Natal Commercial Radio Station, Gagasi FM on the afternoon drive Show, Indaba with Alex Mthiyane.

The show was open to everyone where listeners could phone in and pose critical questions on any information related to service delivery programs and some listeners would even complain where needed.

However, the Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo answered all the questions and took notes when he was advised by other listeners with the intention of making a follow-up to some other service delivery matters, promising to come back to the radio and update the listeners.

Cllr Nxumalo said this was not about fame but it was important to interact with the communities in order to be advised about certain matters that may require urgent attention.

“Other than that, transparency falls within the

parameters of the law, where we have to engage and update members of the community, we lead about what we are doing for them and what went wrong to some other projects that seem to be taking a slow pace,” said Cllr Nxumalo.

The mayor portrayed a cool, calm, and collected attitude throughout the entire interview. In his update, he mentioned that water and sanitation remain the core mandate of Harry Gwala. He further said that as the 2024/2025 financial year has just commenced, the municipality is making it its priority to follow up on all water/sanitation-related projects.

The mayor updated the public on air that earlier on this day he handed over a new fleet of 12 vehicles to kick off transport month. “It is the municipality's pride to announce that this addition of fleet will aid the Water Services Department to improve service delivery within the District. It is even more exciting that it has done away with car rentals which requires more financial implications, as this fleet belongs and is registered under the municipality's name,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

The mayor thanked the Gagasi team for their warm welcome, especially the host of the show Mr Alex Mthiyane, and others who made his appearance on the show successful.

# Integrated Development Plan Roadshows



**The Harry Gwala District Municipality together with the four local municipalities, Ubuhlebezwe, Umzimkhulu, Greater Kokstad and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma had road shows around the district discussing service delivery and community concerns were addressed.**

**H**ARRY Gwala District Municipality recently tabled a joint 2023/2024 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Spatial Development Framework (IDP/SDF) roadshow with traditional leaders, held at the Council Chambers in the main office in Ixopo.

The initiative targeted traditional authorities with the aim of informing and providing necessary updates about service delivery in their areas.

The Speaker of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr. S. Mdunge, presenting the Municipal IDP, said it was necessary that Amakhosi and iziNduna are aware of what the municipality is planning for their communities.

Amakhosi were also encouraged to address community members when they have izimbizo on service delivery, and to empower and encourage

them to register to vote as this has some budget implications.

Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor Cllr. E.B Ngubo presented her municipality's IDP plans while the Deputy Mayor of the Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality, Cllr K. Hadebe did the same. Speaking during the engagement Amakhosi expressed their gratitude for the good relationship they have with the Harry Gwala District and the local municipalities. Amakhosi requested that they be fully briefed about any development in the area so that they are aware before any activity is undertaken.

IDP roadshows have started and will continue until the end of October 2023.

## **IDP schedule**

In terms of Chapter 4 of the Municipal System Act





**Integrated Development Plan (IDP) roadshows were held around the district from September until end of October.**

No 32 of 2000, section 16 enjoins municipalities to develop a culture of community participation. Subsection 1 states that “a municipality must develop a culture of municipal governance that complements formal representative government with a system of participatory governance and must for this purpose- (a) encourage, and create conditions for, the local community to participate in the affairs of the municipality”.

IDP is a five-year strategic document of the municipality that is reviewed annually. Every development that is to take place in a municipality should be fully documented in the IDP.

As such, there is no development that can take place in any space in a municipality unless it is in the IDP and is informed by the people at lower levels. Therefore, there are huge service delivery

implications associated with the review and adoption of the IDP.

It is for this reason that Harry Gwala District Municipality held its IDP road shows during the months of October – November 2023 to solicit the views of the public in relation to their developmental needs. These views or issues were then further processed by this unit working together with the Water and Infrastructure departments.

As a Water Service Authority and Water Service Provider, the issues raised are related mainly to water and sanitation facilities.

The municipality acknowledged that indeed some villages do not have drinkable water and has promised to fast-track services to the needy communities. Some villages get water through water tanks and spring protections.

# Harry Gwala District Municipality hosts massive Government Imbizo and hands over houses to the Kromhoek community



**The Kromhoek community were handed over houses in a community Imbizo event held in the area. Deputy Ministers, MEC and Mayors attended the event.**

**T**HE Harry Gwala District Municipality led by his Worship the Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements, led by its MEC, the Honourable Siphon Nkosi, held a successful report back Imbizo at Kromhoek Village in Ward 20 under the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality.

The primary object of the report back to Imbizo was the official handover of 60 completed Operation Sukuma Sakhe Intervention Housing Units to families that have been living in unsafe mud houses.

This event was attended by countless stakeholders including the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), the South Africa Women in Construction (SAWIC), the Department of Health, the Home Affairs Department, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The event was also attended by top government officials in the province including the MEC for Social Development, Nonhlanhla Khoza, Deputy Minister for Human Settlements, Pamela Tshwete, the Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, the Deputy Minister for Water

and Sanitation Judith Tshabalala, Deputy Minister for Communications and Digital Technologies, Pinky Kekana, uMzimkhulu Mayor Jabulile Msiya and local traditional leadership.

It was a joyful moment for the community of Kromhoek when receiving their houses, and also for the community to get government services delivered to them and uplift their community.

The day started with Government officials first handing over a few houses out of the total of 60 in the morning to the identified beneficiaries including Ms Nomakhwezi Mjwara who is living with eight members of her family in a two-roomed makeshift mud house and rondavel house.

Mjwara said: "I thank the leadership for what it did for me and my family because this house will make a huge positive difference to our lives as I wouldn't afford to build my family a beautiful home because no one is employed."

The purpose of the event was to reassure the people who voted for the incumbent government and also to continue implementing clause number one of the Freedom Charter.





The District Mayor Z.D Nxumalo, during the Municipal Grant Expenditure meeting, highlighted the importance of forward planning to make sure all municipality meet the targets and project are completed in time.

# Applying forward planning for Municipal Grants Expenditure

**T**HE Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo has urged local municipalities within the District to be proactive and submit applications for Municipal Grants Expenditure as part of their forward planning.

The family of municipalities held a grant reporting session where all the municipalities presented their status on Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), INEP, EPWP, and WSIG grants and expenditures to date.

The meeting was held recently at the Council Chambers in the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality in Ixopo. “This meeting should not be for MIG expenditure only but also for information sharing. What the other sister municipality is doing well should be emulated and applied by other municipalities in our region. Let us have a healthy competition between us so that we can achieve and exceed our targets. What we need to focus on is applying forward planning. By the time we start a financial year, we should have plans in place for MIG so that we achieve 100% spending for this grant and others,” said Mayor

Nxumalo.

In response to these meetings, the Municipal Manager of the Greater Kokstad Municipality Mr. Siphso Zwane concurred with the Mayor saying this platform is useful for information sharing.

“I must applaud you chairperson (Mayor Nxumalo) and the team that suggested we have this meeting because we don’t only discuss the issue of MIG but also share best practices. Our team has recently visited uMzimkhulu to learn more about how they are fighting the potholes challenges, we have learned a lot from them,” said Zwane.

The meeting was attended by Mayors of the Ubuhlebezwe, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and uMzimkhulu municipalities while the Greater Kokstad Municipality was represented by the Municipal Manager and his team. Relevant officials from all the municipalities also attended including the Municipal Managers, Directors and Chief Financial Officers, and senior officials. The District has been convening such meetings to discuss MIG progress and expenditure and elected to extend it to include the family of municipalities within the region.





It was a wonderful day when the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo unveiled 12 new vehicles to assist with service delivery.

# Harry Gwala District Municipality welcomes new fleet to improve service delivery

**K**ICKING off Transport Month, which in our country is celebrated in the month of October, the Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo continued with his work of prioritizing service delivery by unveiling 12 new vehicles to complement the existing District's fleet in its quest to implement services across the region.

Mayor Nxumalo unveiled the following vehicles: 5 X Isuzu Single Cabs 4x2, 4 X Nissan Navara double cabs (4x2), 1 X Toyota Quantum 1 X Nissan Navara Single Cab 4x4, 1 X Suzuki Sedan.

The procurement of these vehicles was included in the 2022/23 budget plan, where the Municipality made a commitment to purchase vehicles to improve service delivery to the public.

The handover was attended by Municipal Manager G.M. Sineke, Corporate Services Director Mrs TT Magaqa, and officials of respective units that will be utilizing the vehicles.

The purchase of this fleet will be economical to both the municipality and the public as it has come to an end of renting as all vehicles are registered under the municipality's name.

While checking if all the safety measures were adhered to, Mayor Nxumalo expressed the importance of the correct usage of the vehicle. He further stated that the additional fleet will assist tremendously the Water Services Department, which forms the core mandate and vision of the municipality.

The Municipality believes that this will further contribute to generating much-needed revenue.





**MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Mbali Frazer officially opened a state-of-the-art Xoloxolo Primary School in Kokstad, under the Harry Gwala District Municipality. This learning institution, which costs the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education R56 Million, has 25 Classrooms. The MEC was joined by The District Deputy Mayor Cllr N.T Jojozi, District Speaker Cllr Mdunge, Greater Kokstad Municipality Mayor Cllr Madikizela, Kokstad Deputy Mayor Cllr Walker, 7 AmaKhosi from traditional house and the presidents special advisor and former MEC Jomo Sibiya.**

# MEC Frazer officially opened the state-of-the-art Xoloxolo Primary School

**K**WAZULU-NATAL MEC for Education, Ms. Mbali Frazer officially opened the state-of-the-art Xoloxolo Primary school in Kokstad under the Harry Gwala District Municipality recently.

More than R56 million was spent on the construction of this magnificent school which now stands as a beacon of hope for the learners of Kokstad and the entire Harry Gwala District, said MEC Frazer.

She said Xoloxolo Primary is yet another fine example of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's commitment to the provision of a conducive and safe environment for quality teaching and learning to take place.

The construction of Xoloxolo commenced in June 2019 and was completed in December 2021. The project encountered delays due to Covid-19 but contractors were able to overcome the challenges that came with the pandemic to continue with the project.

The project provided employment for 138 local people and local emerging contractors also benefited from this project. "We always stress that local communities should benefit from construction projects in their areas as this forms part of the government's plan to address the challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment said MEC Frazer.

The new smart Xoloxolo Primary School consists of the following:

- An admin Block,
- 25 standard classrooms,
- Five Grade R classrooms,
- A garden store,
- A gatehouse,

- A school nutrition program kitchen,
- Six girls toilets,
- Six boys toilets,
- Teachers toilets,
- A toilet for people with disabilities
- and landscaping.

Modern ICT equipment installed in XoloXolo Primary includes

- A Smart Interactive Screen,
- Ultra-short throw projector,
- 28 Normal Digital classroom projectors,
- 29 Non-reflective Whiteboards,
- A chargeable laptop trolley,
- 40 learner laptops, 25 teacher laptops,
- A content server,
- A router with a data sim card and 11 Access points.

All educators of Xoloxolo Primary have been trained to use the ICT equipment supplied to the school. During her address, MEC Frazer appealed to the committee of Kokstad to protect Xoloxolo from criminal activities as well as other attempts to disrupt teaching and learning at the school.

During the launch, the MEC was joined by Harry Gwala District Municipality Deputy Mayor Cllr Jojozi, District Speaker, Mr. Mdunge, Greater Kokstad Mayor Cllr Madikizela, Greater Kokstad Deputy Mayor Cllr Walker, Amakhozi from the traditional house and the president's special advisor Jomo Sibiya. Sibiya said that this particular school was very close to his heart as it was the first school he visited when he assumed office as MEC for public works in KZN during his term.

# Heavy rainfall and thunderstorm incidents

DATE OF INCIDENT: 16 – 17 OCTOBER 2023

**H**EAVY rainfall and thunderstorm that were anticipated to start Monday 16 October until Tuesday 17 October 2023 within the Harry Gwala District are of jurisdiction.

On the 15th of October 2023 the South African Weather Services (SAWS) issued level 6 weather warnings of disruptive rain. Following the storm alerts the Harry Gwala District Municipality activated a JOC that set Monday 16 October at 09h00. The purpose of the JOC was to prepare for state of readiness for any eventuality. To ensure and protect the public as the adverse weather may pose a danger to lives and lead to localised flooding of roads and bridges. The local municipalities and relevant stakeholders were in attendance. Furthermore, they all presented the state of readiness and plans that are in place.

Harry Gwala District Municipality continues to receive Early Warning System from South African Weather Services (SAWS) in partnership with the Provincial Disaster Management Centre. The early warnings were shared amongst disaster management centre personnel, councillors, Ward Committees, CDW's, Traditional Leaders and all primary responders to carry out their mandatory responsibilities such as Local Municipalities Emergency Centres, Sector Departments Ward Councillors, Ward Committees, and Community Development Workers (CDW's).

## UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality reported five (5) structural collapse of mud houses in Cabazi ward 1, Ndwebu ward 11 and Ward 14. One (1) structural fire incident in KwaBhidla Ward 10. No injuries, fatalities or missing persons were reported. The five

(5) households were issued with immediate relief (plastic sheets, foam mattresses and blankets) and they have alternative accommodation from relatives

There is social relief available in stock: Plastic rolls (52), Blankets (400) and Mattresses (203). Disaster management team will be on standby: Volunteers (14) and Disaster Management personnel (3). When a need arises to evacuate people from their places of residence to the nearest community halls. A 15 seater mini bus and X2 double caps would be available as a mode of transportation and 44 community halls.

## DR NDZ LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality has not received any reported incidents. There is social relief available.

In the 3 Local municipalities there were no reports of disaster. Other stakeholders didn't report any disaster during this time.



**Structural fire in Ubuhlebezwe ward 10, KwaBhidla on 17 October 2023**



**Structural collapse in Ubuhlebezwe, Ward 11 Ndwebu on 17 October 2023 caused by heavy rainfall and strong winds.**

## AMNESTY PROGRAMME

Harry Gwala District Municipality has embarked on an Amnesty programme Starting in November 2023 until June 2024.

### QUALIFYING CRITERIA

The qualifying customers are those with accounts who are 90 days or more in arrear who wish to benefit from the amnesty. The amnesty shall be administered as follows:

1. Accounts of which 50% of the overall debt are paid within 30 days after the signing of the amnesty application forms will be written off by 50% of their outstanding debt.
2. Accounts of which 50% of the overall debt are paid within 60 days after the signing of the amnesty application forms will be written off by 40% of their outstanding debt.
3. Accounts of which 50% of the overall debt are paid within 90 days after the signing of the amnesty application forms will be written off by 30% of their outstanding debt.
4. Accounts of which 50% of the overall debt are paid within 120 days after the signing of the amnesty application forms will be written off by 20% of their outstanding debt.
5. Accounts of which are paid 50% of the overall debt are paid within 150 days after the signing of the amnesty application forms will be written off by 10% of their outstanding debt.
6. The amnesty excludes Municipal Councillors, government departments and state owned enterprises.

**For more Information contact the municipality: 039 834 8700**





**The District Deputy Mayor Cllr. N.T Jojozi, motivated government workers to make sure that they do their job well during the public service celebration held in Bulwer.**

## Public Service Month & Annual Thusong Service Week in Harry Gwala District

**A**S part of 2023 Public Service Month, GCIS alongside the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality, Government Departments and NGO's embarked on an integrated mobile service outreach programme for the Annual Thusong Service Week.

As part of the build-up program and mobilization, a clean-up and blitz outreach was conducted on the 19th of September 2023 in preparation for the main program. The aim of the campaign was to encourage communities to take collective responsibility for a cleaner environment around them and to raise public awareness of the dangers of litter to both wildlife and communities.

The cleanup campaign was incorporated with a Blitz where flyers were distributed to the public outlining various services as part of mobilization for the integrated mobile outreach campaign which was the main event for the Bulwer Community Service Centre which took place the following day. The campaign included interacting with the public on the dangers of litter and contact information was shared of Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality where the public wanted to report certain cases pertaining to litter.

The main program took place on the 20th of September 2023 at Bulwer village in the form of an integrated service mobile outreach. Various departments were present to render services and share information. The program began with loud hailing in the morning in the nearby township. Thereafter it was graced by the visit of District Deputy Mayor Cllr Jojozi accompanied by Ward 10 Councillor Bhengu, they both visited the Bulwer CSC for a briefing and status update where the Deputy

Mayor also had the opportunity to engage with Izinduna from the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality where she also pleaded with them to encourage communities to utilize services available at the CSC. After the engagement with Izinduna the Deputy Mayor and ward Councillor had a tree-planting session in commemoration of Abor Week, which is commemorated every year in the month of September.

The Deputy Mayor and ward Councillor then proceeded to the outreach location not far from the Centre where services were rendered. Here they were joined by GCIS Provincial Director Ndala Mngadi, all three guests interacted with stakeholders and the public. The wrap-up session included a financial wellness program for all stakeholders at the CSC.

"We are grateful for the partnership between GCIS, Harry Gwala District Municipality, and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality for mobilizing departments and stakeholders in ensuring the program was a success. We would like to thank all departments who were present to continue collaborating and partnering in this integrated manner where the public receives various services in the same venue," said Deputy Mayor, Jojozi.

The Thusong Service Centre Programme was initiated in 1999 to widen the reach of government services in an integrated manner. The Annual Thusong Service Centre Week was piloted in September 2014. The campaign, was in its ninth year this year and sought to showcase success stories around the program and to mobilize the private sector to support the program. Annual Thusong week primary messengers are all political principals at national, provincial, and at local levels.



# Employee wellness through sports



It was all games and fun during the Samwu tournament

**T**HIS year's annual South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) Tournament held at the Jeffrey Zungu Stadium (Turf) in Ixopo recently was nothing short of fun as the excitement and participation grew tremendously.

Not only does the SAMWU represent, fight and defends the rights of employees in the work-place, but also brings together employees through sports

with the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle amongst the civil servants. Participants were from various Municipalities within the Harry Gwala District namely uBuhlebezwe, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and the Greater Kokstad Municipalities, including employees from the District. The civil servants came in numbers to partake in the following sport codes: soccer (for both males and females), netball, tug-of-war, volleyball, athletics including 100m races and







relay and athletics related games.

In attendance was the Municipal Manager of the District, Mr. G.M Sineke, Municipal Manager of uBuhlebezwe Mr. M.E Mkhize, Municipal Manager of Dr. NZD Mr. N.C Vezi and heads of departments from the various municipalities in attendance. It was a joyful event that left both officials and management in high spirits.

During his welcome remarks Mr. G.M Sineke emphasized on the importance of such events as it brings about increased productivity and boosts staff morale.

“This day is special as it allows employees to be out of the office and show off their other talents outside of the office. It is also an opportunity for all of us to keep fit and healthy,” said the District’s Municipal Manager.

SAMWU believes that participating in sports can

promote socialization, boost self-esteem, and lower the risk of mental disorders and that sport helps maintain a healthy lifestyle by influencing diet and improves sleep patterns. The First Deputy President of SAMWU Mluleki Mbhele, encouraged employees to make the next tournament an even bigger and better encounter.

“The simplest way to promote health goals in your organization is to include sporting events. This event indeed helped to enhance a positive workplace culture which reduces stress levels, leading to healthier employees. May these games grow from this year’s event. Next year we aim to make them bigger and better for all our participants. After these games, we must also go back to the offices with the same spirit of working hard to make sure there is service delivery to the various communities of the municipalities we work for, said Mr. Mbhele.





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 Harry Gwala District Municipality

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