



2025 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

HARRY GWALA
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 1



Together we Deliver and Grow

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TO BUILD THE MZANSI I WANT



Harry Gwala District Municipality



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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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial Note	04
Mayor's Foreword	05
Municipal Manager's Foreword	06
Water Statement by Harry Gwala District Water Services Department	07
Council and Committees	08
School Functionality Monitoring Programme in the Harry Gwala District	10
District Mayor leads School Functionality Monitoring Programme and 2024 Matric Excellence Awards	12
Harry Gwala District Municipality Celebrates Matric Success	13
First Council Year 2025	14
Harry Gwala District Site Visits	16
Harry Gwala District Municipality sticks on its guns to deliver services as strategic planning session sets out the tone	18
Innaugural Meeting of iNkosi M.B MJOLI	19
The Harry Gwala District Municipality mourns the passing of an employee: PHELOKAZI FAITH MAFA	20
Harry Gwala District Municipality celebrates Senior Citizens	21
Cancer Awareness at Harry Gwala	22
The Harry Gwala District Municipality EPWP launch Phase 5	23
MEC Buthelezi's Visit	24
Anti-Corruption and the Code of Ethical Leadership in Local government Workshop	25
MEC Duma warmly received by Inkosi Ntobeko Msingapantsi of Amabhaca Zwelethu Traditional Council, in uMzimkhulu	26
A New Fleet to assist service delivery	27
Harry Gwala District Municipality LGBTQIA+Pride Parade	28
The Municipal Manager of Harry Gwala Welcomes the Newly Appointed Employees	29
Meet the New Project Manager (Chief Technician)	30
Mbizweni Main Sewer Collector Upgrade in uMzimkhulu Town (Ward 16)	31
Disaster Report: Disaster Incidents occurred in December 2024 to January 2025	33
The Harry Gwala Summer Cup	34



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza
Communications Manager

Community growth, service delivery, and local leadership celebrated

It is a great pleasure and my honour that I welcome you once again to the issue of our third quarter newsletter for the 2024/2025 financial year and thank you for always giving us consistent support and interest in the gradual development within the District.

Our community continues to grow and evolve; therefore, it is essential to stay informed about the issues and initiatives that shape our landscape. As the Municipality we are entrusted with critical responsibilities of ensuring its reliable, safe, and equitable distribution to all residents. In this edition we take a closer look at the key developments and the decisions that are impacting our Municipality.

As we begin the year 2025, it is an honour and a privilege opportunity to reflect on the plans and highlights of the past year, particularly the achievements of the Matric class of 2024. To the Harry Gwala District Matric Class of 2024, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on completing this significant milestone in your educational journey. The class of 2024 results are a testament to the hard work and commitment of our young generation. It is a clear indication that the future is bright, and it is in appropriate hands. To extend our gratitude the District held the 2025 back-to-school campaign led by the KZN Legislature. The aim of this campaign was to observe the school functionality and performances. His Worship the Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr ZD Nxumalo, also briefly visited schools that underperformed in their matric results. The visit was pursued at finding ways to support and encourage them to do better.

The Municipality has performed remarkably well in gaining the confidence of its communities through accelerating service delivery implementation of its core functions, namely water and sanitation. Each year, the water report outlines the planned projects and their intended completion dates. One of such projects was the handover of the rollback truck to the uMngeni water service office to assist communities across the whole district and conducted a site visit inspection in various centres to monitor and gauge progress. This was to ensure an intervention is provided where needed.

Through every organisation's success, there is a need for rules and regulations to be implemented and be partnered with different stakeholders such as working with traditional leaders. The Municipality recently welcomed the prominent leader of the community Inkosi Mboneni Benedict Mjoli. He took an oath of office before the leadership of the District during his inauguration. Inkosi Ntobeko Msingaphantsi of AmaBhaca Zwelethu Traditional Council was also visited by the District accompanied by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlement, Siboniso Duma. The existing traditional leaders were paid visits by the MEC Thulasizwe Buthelezi from the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

(COGTA). This shows cultural diversity enclosed in this local government organisation. Moreover, provide the Municipality with enhanced support from the local and provincial government. Finally, the Municipality leadership were granted an opportunity to undergo the anti-corruption and code of ethical leadership workshop on local government to remind them to do the right thing even when no one is watching.

The public service delivery system's role is to eradicate negative indicators that interfere with the standard of living in South Africa. As part of the municipality's strategies to implement an integrated approach to public service delivery, the Harry Gwala District employed several employees. This serves as an act of reducing the "unemployment rate". These employees had a privilege to be warmly welcomed by the Municipal Manager Gamakulu Sineke. In addition, the Employment Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), contributed significantly by creating (312) job opportunities in 2024 within the District. The EPWP launched Phase 5 which divulged new and upgraded strategies that have long-term commitment towards ensuring the programme leads to future employability, self-employment, cooperatives, or enterprises that can employ more people. Indeed, this programme has great plans for the youth of South Africa.

'No citizen should be left behind'. This phrase emphasizes the importance of providing equal policies or initiatives aimed at ensuring that every citizen, regardless of their background or circumstances has access to essential services and opportunities with the goal of preventing anyone from being marginalized in society. The Harry Gwala District actively recognizes and appreciates the invaluable lives of senior citizens for the role they play in our lives. The District Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo hosted a Christmas party and celebrated the winners of the Golden Games from all the sister municipalities within the Districts. This was to embrace their presence and make conscious efforts to express gratitude for their love, support and sacrifices especially as they age, and time becomes increasingly precious.

In conclusion, the Constitution (section 152(1)(a)) requires local government to provide democratic and accountable government to local communities. Thus, there is no doubt that the local community is the primary stakeholder of a municipality. I therefore pledge to all the members of our communities within sister municipalities to take this platform at heart as it is the part of our primary source of communication and informative way of dwelling all about the progress that is happening in the district. This is a perfect platform to share important updates, celebrate achievements and address concerns in a structured manner. This helps us to establish a regular communication rhythm that keeps employees informed and engaged by making them feel connected to their municipality and community.



MISS NONTUTHUKO NGUBANE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
(PRO)



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



SIBONGILE KUNENE
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER



MS ATH'ENKOSI BAQWA:
COMMUNICATIONS
INTERN



MS XOLISWA DLAMINI:
EPWP COMMUNICATIONS
ASSISTANT



MS FUNDISILE QOZA:
EPWP COMMUNICATIONS
ASSISTANT

Harry Gwala District: A Year of Education, Strategic Growth, and Clean Governance

GREETINGS to all the citizens of our region, the Harry Gwala District. I greet you warmly through this platform, which is one of the many tools we as the District utilize to cascade and disseminate updates to citizens across the region. The year 2025 has indeed kicked-off and is well underway.

As I write this foreword, the new academic year is already in full swing, and the learners have adjusted to the routine of attending classes and doing homework after the December vacations.

I started purposefully with education.

Indeed, it remains one of the channels to success. As it takes a collective to educate our children, including parents, teachers, school governing body and government, I, on behalf of all the learners of the Matric Class of 2024, well done for the great results and for hoisting the flag of our beautiful region with the display of your hard work and potential for us, as the citizens of the District to be proud of, and for the rest of the province of KwaZulu-Natal and the rest of country to join us congratulating your superb efforts.

On behalf of the HGDM, I congratulate you once more and wish you all the best in your future endeavours. By the same token I wish for you great success and go out there and make your families proud, your communities and your District proud. Remember we are also counting on you to contribute solutions as well to the challenges facing our District.

School Functionality

While on the topic of education and its importance, various Councillors of HGDM including myself took part in school functionality visits across various local municipalities within our District to ensure that all systems go for the new academic year. Together with the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, the Honourable Siphon Hlomuka, we were provided with updates of the previous year's academic achievements and challenges that our schools are faced with. On the side of the District there were commitments that were made to ensure that the District plays its role in ensuring that teaching and learning proceeds unhindered. I wish to take this opportunity to commend educators for the work that they do to shape the futures of our children. We will endeavour to resolve, where we can, the issues related to the mandate of the District that are contributing to the impediment of teaching and learning.



His Worship the District Mayor
Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

District's Strategic Planning Session

A strategic planning session typically has multiple goals, which include but not limited to, providing a platform for leaders to review or share or emphasize their vision for the District. This is to ensure that all within the institution sing from the same hymn book and establish clear and measurable goals and targets that must be reached and even exceeded.

Such sessions, which the HGDM held recently serve as either a rebooting or review point and a platform for assessment and re-strategizing to achieve the intended outcomes for our citizens. This included, during the recent discussions, addressing project delays, enhancing the delivery of water and sanitation to communities and as I have mentioned above to the education facilities within our region. We took resolutions, matched them up with timeframes for our administration to implement. We will monitor once again, closely the progress and where intervention is needed, we will not hesitate to intervene and assist.

“
We are committed to attaining a clean audit opinion and together with the administration, at all levels, this is our vision and we are certain it is within reach.”

Unqualified Audit Opinion

I wish to touch on the Auditor-General of South Africa issuing an unqualified audit opinion for the year under review (2023/2024). The opinion was again a recognition of the clean governance and transparency that HGDM continuously displays. This is topped by the oversight exercised by Council and committees of Council on the implementation of the plans that have been resolved by the Councillors for endorsement and support. We are committed to attaining a clean audit opinion and together with the administration, at all levels, this is our vision and we are certain it is within reach.

Welcome to Inkosi M.B. Mjoli

As I conclude, allow me to congratulate and welcome Inkosi Mjoli for being inducted to serve in the Council of the Harry Gwala District Municipality. Inkosi Mjoli is a leader that I respect and is respected across the district. I have all the confidence in him that he will be cherished in addition to our Council.

I thank you.

HGDM forges forward with improved service delivery, ethical behaviour and transparency in its activities



GREETINGS to all citizens, consumers, and partners of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, As we begin a new year, I am pleased to reflect on the progress we have made as an organization and the opportunities that lie ahead. At the Harry Gwala District Municipality, we remain committed to delivering quality services to our communities and promoting a culture of ethical leadership and good governance.

I am delighted to report that our efforts have been recognized by the Auditor-General of South Africa, who has awarded us an Unqualified Audit opinion for the previous financial year of 2023/2024. This achievement is a testament to our commitment to transparency, accountability, and good financial management, demonstrating that the Harry Gwala District Municipality is making good progress in managing its finances effectively and utilizing public funds efficiently.

In this current financial year, the Harry Gwala Municipality held its Draft Budget and Adjustment Budget strategic planning session from the 3rd of February 2025 until the 7th of February 2025. This session focused on

implementing our budget adjustment strategy, which aims to ensure that our resources are allocated efficiently and effectively. The strategic planning session allowed us to adjust our budget by prioritizing areas that are critical to our service delivery mandate, as per the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) No. 56 of 2003, which stipulates in Section 69 that the accounting officer of the municipality is responsible for implementing the municipality's approved budget, including taking all reasonable steps to ensure:

- A) That the spending of funds is in accordance with the budget and is reduced as necessary when revenue is anticipated to be less than projected in the budget or in the service delivery and budget implementation plan.
- B) That revenue and expenditure are properly monitored.

As we welcome the new year, we are excited to have supported our communities through the "Back-to-School Campaign," an initiative aimed at providing support to learners, educators, and schools, ensuring that they have the resources they need to succeed.

As we move forward, we remain committed to upholding the principles of ethical leadership and good governance. We believe that these principles are essential for building trust and confidence with our stakeholders and ensuring the delivery of quality services to our communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our employees, councillors, and stakeholders for their hard work and dedication to our organization. Together, we can achieve great things and make a positive impact on the lives of our community. I thank you.

“
As we welcome the new year, we are excited to have supported our communities through the “Back-to-School Campaign,” an initiative aimed at providing support to learners, educators, and schools, ensuring that they have the resources they need to succeed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



MR. KHULANI MTHEMBENI
BRIAN MZIMELA
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



MR. NKULULEKO BIYASE
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES



MRS. THOBILE THELMA
THIYANE-MAGAQA
CORPORATE SERVICES



MR. LINDUMUSA GWALA
WATER SERVICES

UNDERSTANDING WETLANDS

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February.

THE theme for World Wetlands Day 2025 is "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future" this theme highlights the profound connection between wetlands and human well-being. World Wetlands Day is an ideal time to grow our understanding of what needs to be done and what we can do now. Having different theme celebration each year, highlights the different benefits of wetlands for people and the health of the planet.

WHAT ARE WETLANDS

Wetlands are important features in the landscape that provide numerous beneficial services for people, aquatic life and wildlife. Some of these services, include protecting and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitats, storing floodwaters and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. These valuable functions/services are the result of the unique natural characteristics of wetlands.

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. Wetlands can be thought of as "biological supermarkets" since they provide great volumes of food that attract many animal species. These animals use wetlands for their life-cycle.

Wetlands function and value of these functions to humans depend on a complex set of relationships between the wetland and the other ecosystems in the watershed. A watershed is a geographic area in which water, sediments and dissolved materials drain from higher elevations to a common low-lying outlet.

WHY ARE WETLANDS IMPORTANT?

Many species of birds and mammals rely on wetlands for food, water and shelter, especially during migration and breeding. Wetlands store carbon within their plant communities and soil instead of releasing it to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Thus wetlands help to moderate global climate conditions. Wetlands also play important role in the following:

1. Water purification
2. Groundwater recharge
3. Flood protection

1. WETLANDS AND WATER PURIFICATION

Many pollutants are washed by rainfall from urban, rural and agricultural lands and are carried overland to water bodies. Pollutants include soil particles, fertilizers, pesticides, grease and oil from cars and trucks, and road salts. Wetlands can improve water quality by removing these pollutants from surface waters. Three pollutant removal processes provided by wetlands are particularly important: sediment trapping, nutrient removal and chemical detoxification.

Wetlands protect water quality by trapping sediments and retaining excess nutrients and other pollutants such as heavy metals. Wetlands also filter and process excess nutrients that may runoff from agricultural and development sites. Wetlands can be called "the kidneys of our watersheds." Because they remove waste in water.

2. WETLANDS AND GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Groundwater provides water for drinking, irrigation, and keeping water flowing in our streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. During periods of low stream flows, the slow discharge of groundwater to surface waters often helps maintain minimum water levels. In addition, wetlands help maintain streams, lakes, and reservoirs by releasing stored water directly into these systems. Water seeps into the ground

to replenish underground aquifers. This means that wetlands play an important role in replenishing groundwater.

Wetlands collect and store fresh water at the surface from rain and overland flow, slowly releasing it back into the ground where it can once again be used to provide water to communities in a form of boreholes or springs etc.

3. WETLANDS AND FLOODS

Wetlands have the ability to provide some measure of flood protection by holding excess water after a storm and then releasing it slowly. The size, shape, location, and soil type of a wetland determine its ability to reduce local and downstream flooding. While wetlands cannot prevent flooding from happening, they do lower the severity by temporarily holding water and slowing its velocity. Wetland soil acts as a sponge, holding more water than other soil types. Trees, root mats and other wetland vegetation also slow the speed of flood waters and distribute them more slowly over the floodplain. This combined water storage and braking action lowers flood heights and reduces the erosive energy of water moving downstream.

Wetlands within and downstream of urban areas are particularly valuable, counteracting the greatly increased rate and volume of surface water runoff from pavement and buildings. The holding capacity of wetlands helps control floods and prevents water logging of crops. If wetlands did not exist to hold stormwater runoff, more backyards and houses would end up underwater during floods. Thus preserving and restoring wetlands do provide a level of flood control for free.

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT WETLANDS

- i. Wetlands purify our water:** Wetlands are great filters! They trap sediments and remove pollutants, which helps to purify water. This certainly beats expensive, human-made filtration systems.
- ii. Wetlands store our water to ensure supply during dry season:** Wetlands work like giant sponges. They store water and then slowly release it, and this helps to deal with dry seasons with little rainfall.
- iii. Wetlands can prevent floods:** When rivers burst their banks, wetlands can store the excess water and slow it down so it distributes more evenly over a floodplain. The roots of trees and other vegetation in the wetland also help slow the speed of flood waters.
- iv. Wetlands recharge groundwater:** Wetlands allow water to soak into the ground to replenish the natural groundwater supply.
- v. Wetlands help to control erosion:** Sediments are trapped by wetlands. Wetlands also reduces the erosive energy of water to washdown the soil leaving land vulnerable to erosion.
- vi. Wetlands protect Biodiversity:** Many different kinds of species depend on wetlands. Wetlands boost biodiversity and offer recreational and business opportunities.

MAJOR THREATS TO WETLANDS

Although legislation has greatly slowed wetland destruction and loss, the ecological health of the remaining wetlands are still under threat from the following factors but not limited to:

- Habitat fragmentation
- Polluted runoff
- Water level changes
- Invasive species
- Climate change
- Population growth

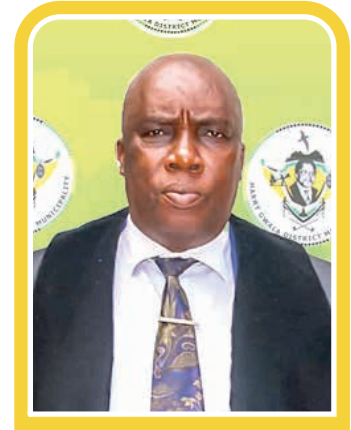
HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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. N.W. DLADLA



CLLR. Z.R. TSHAZI



CLLR. P.N. DAMOYI



CLLR. P.K. MEMELA



CLLR. N. MDA



CLLR. N.R. MTSHALI



CLLR. N.H. ZACA



CLLR. N.H. MALIMELA



CLLR. H.A. LUKHOZI



CLLR. N. DLAMINI



CLLR. Z.P. DLAMINI



CLLR. H.V. MSOMI



CLLR. S.R.L. NZIMANDE



CLLR. B.R. MEMELA



CLLR. B.L. MARNCÉ



CLLR. B. SIBENI



CLLR. N. MATHE

TRADITIONAL LEADERS



INKOSI V.V. ZIMEMA



INKOSI M.S.I. ZULU



INKOSI M.B. MJOLI



Minister Nobuhle Nkabane handed out gift packs during her visit at Ginyiqhinga High School in Ward 22 under the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality.

School Functionality Monitoring Programme in the Harry Gwala District

THE KwaZulu-Natal Legislature kick started the 2025 Back-to-School programme in the Harry Gwala District with a school functionality monitoring visit to the Indawana Secondary School under the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality.

The school functionality monitoring programme was undertaken along with the Harry Gwala District Municipality, to observe the school performance and functionality.

The school has just over 700 learners and out of 48 pupils (Grade 12) who wrote their final exams, they managed to achieve a pass rate of 98% in the year 2024. Amongst dignitaries who constituted the visit were the District Speaker Cllr Sibongiseni Mdunge, representing the traditional leaders were iNkosi uMsingaphansi and iziNduna, legislature officials, Department of Education officials, teachers, members of the school governing body (SGB), parents and community members. The Harry Gwala District Municipality Speaker Cllr S.D Mdunge, was very

pleased with the school's performance, He stated : "As the District we believe and support that in 2025 the school will get 100% , however we have detected that the school's water needs require attention. The District has assigned plumbers and water monitors to ensure clean and running water is delivered in this area".

Despite the challenges the school faces on a daily basis, teachers and learners strive for excellence against all odds. The school was also advised to give lower grades the same treatment and attention as they give the Grade 12 learners in order to maintain holistic applaudable performance for the school.

The programme then proceeded to Emtshibeni Secondary for the continuation of the school functionality and monitoring. Some of the challenges at the school included overcrowding and lack of resources. The school received a 100% pass rate for matric 2024. Day two of the programme continued within the District with the



MEC for education Sipho Hlomuka and the Harry Gwala District Mayor Z.D Nxumalo both joined the school functionality monitoring programme & were warmly welcomed by the teachers and pupils.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Sipho Hlomuka and the Harry Gwala District Mayor, who both joined the school functionality monitoring programme visit at the Mdingi High School which is based in the Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality.

The school, which has 832 learners, achieved an 85.8% matric pass. However, Principal Ms. T.N. Ndimande noted that despite this success, the school's performance had declined due to challenges of school fights and requested additional security measures to address the school's

instability. District Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo highlighted the issue of water supply, suggesting that the school conduct water harvesting after noticing unused water tanks on the premises. Prominent stakeholders showed visibility such as Harry Gwala District Mayor, Izinduna, Department of Education officials, Legislature officials, teachers, parents and SGB members. The programme then proceeded to Nomgidi Primary School. MEC Sipho Hlomuka assured both schools that they are not alone and that the department will continue to support them in making education a success.

DISTRICT MAYOR LEADS SCHOOL FUNCTIONALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME AND 2024 MATRIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS



The Minister, MEC and Mayor Z.D proceeded to the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality to the Matric 2024 excellence Awards held at Esayidi FET.

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo along with the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Siphso Hlomuka, visited the Mariathal Combined school, based in the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality for the 2025 school functionality and assessment monitoring programme.

While the Mayor was in Ixopo the Minister in the Department of Higher Education and Training Minister Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, held an engagement at Ginyiqhinga High School in Ward 22 under the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality under the auspices of the same programme.

MEC Hlomuka praised the school for the good 2024 matric pass rate and applauded the overall performance of the school across all the grades from Grade R.

Mayor Nxumalo shared the same sentiments praising the school management, teachers and the School Governing Body (SGB). MEC Hlomuka donated 50 school shoes to deserving pupils.

The Minister, MEC and Mayor Nxumalo proceeded to the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality Matric Excellence Awards held at the Esayidi FET.

The leaders congratulated and accoladed the top achievers during the awards, including rewarding the best

performing schools and educators.

The Matric Excellence Awards ceremony was a refreshing engagement where learners that performed well and hoisted the flags of their various schools were applauded for their dedication throughout the year. Educators on the other hand praised the performances of their learners and expressed that they hope that Matric Class 2025 will surpass the pass rate set by the Class of 2024 and achieve even greater results.

During the awards Minister Nkabane promised 10 best Matric pupils in uMzimkhulu fully paid bursaries to further their studies. Minister Nkabane is originally from UMzimkhulu from a small rural area called eMfundweni. She formally adopted Ginyiqhinga High School as she committed visiting the school regularly. After she engaged with learners about academics and future endeavors, the Minister then encouraged them to start applying as well to TVET institutions which are solely based on upskilling the youth with skills that can contribute to further development in her hometown.

Such visits continued throughout the District as part of ensuring that schools received the much needed support and encouragement ahead of the new school year.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CELEBRATES MATRIC SUCCESS



Shai Pitout from Little Flower Secondary School was awarded the Top performing pupil in the Harry Gwala District.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality is beaming with pride as it congratulates the District Matric Class of 2024 on their outstanding achievement. The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal, during the provincial release of the 2024 National Senior certificate result at Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC), Durban, announced an impressive 88.9% pass rate, marking a significant improvement from the previous year's 87.1% pass rate.

The District Mayor, Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo extended his warmest congratulations to the matriculants, teachers, principals, school governing bodies, and parents on the overall remarkable achievement. "This is indeed a clear indication of hard work and dedication not only from pupils but also from teachers, principals, school governing bodies, as well as support from parents," he said.

At the awards, a top pupil in Harry Gwala, Shai Pitout from Little Flower Secondary was awarded the top

performing pupil in the District and came in position 7 in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. He received a full bursary from the Department of Education, to further his studies in engineering in Cape Town.

Mayor Nxumalo further acknowledged the tireless efforts of educators who put in countless hours to ensure the success of their students. He also offered words of encouragement to those who did not perform well, urging them not to give up but to try again. As the new academic year commences, Mayor Nxumalo wished all pupils who returned to school for the 2025 academic year the best of luck. "Work hard and aim high. Remember that education is the key to success. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours," he said. The Harry Gwala District Municipality's impressive matric results are a testament to the hard work and commitment of all stakeholders involved. As the municipality continues to strive for excellence in education, the future of its young people is bright.

FIRST COUNCIL YEAR 2025



THE Harry Gwala District Municipality received an unqualified audit opinion for the financial year ending 30 June 2024. The Municipality held its first Council meeting for the year on 28 January 2025 in the main Municipal Council Chambers, in iXopo. During the meeting, the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) presented the audit outcome for the Municipality for the 2023/2024 financial year noting that the Municipality received an Unqualified Audit opinion. The District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, welcomed the report and the audit outcome, stating that he was pleased with the outcome and further assured the office of the Auditor General of South Africa that as the Municipality there would be strengthened oversight played by the Council to ensure improvement in the areas that have been raised in the Auditor General's report. The Mayor also added that the Council would be activating the accountability ecosystem to address the root causes of the findings. The meeting has set a tone for the Council and management for the year 2025, emphasizing that service delivery is and will remain a priority.



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT SITE VISITS



The Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo was delighted with the update & pace which he witnessed on different site project.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality's recent oversight visit to the Greater Kokstad Municipality left the leadership smiling regarding the progress on Kempdale Dam Project.

The project has taken off the ground and the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, was delighted when he received an update in relation to the almost R 200 million Kempdale Dam Project, regarded as the "lifetime" end to water challenges in Kokstad.

The project will also boost raw water capacity in the dam to meet projected future demand up to the year 2040. It will also ensure adequate, safe, reliable and sustainable potable water supply in Kokstad. The Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo was delighted with the update and the pace, which he witnessed on site. This was part of the Municipality's regular monitoring projects to ensure they get completed with the

aim of improving the water supply to communities. The site oversight was not strictly dedicated only to projects as the leadership also visited the Kokstad satellite office to motivate the workers and to observe the working conditions. They walked about four kilometers within the area of Horseshoe to monitor water challenges and to also find solutions. Contractors and consultants were also encouraged to roll up their sleeves and ensure that timelines are met. This is the project that was also visited by the Water and Sanitation Minister, Senzo Mchunu where he turned the sod marking the start of a project envisaged to end water challenges in Kokstad, a fast-growing town in the District of Harry Gwala. The matter of the prepaid water meters, which seeks to become a burning issue was discussed at length and it was outlined that the prepaid meters are aimed at benefiting the communities and is a permanent solution to non-revenue





The municipal leadership continued with the inspection on variers site to gauge progress and to ensure intervention where needed.

water and water losses. As part of the site visit, the team started the day at the Horseshoe Sanitation Project and Refurb/Upgrade of Bhongweni Infrastructure.

In Underberg the successful Harry Gwala site visits continued with warm welcome by communities premised on good results, meeting the Municipality’s efforts to ensure the highest level of service delivery to the people. The District Municipality Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo and the Municipal Manager, Mr Gamukhulu Sineke had a great opportunity engaging with the community of Underberg. The engagements took place at the local Country Club during the site visit to water and sanitation projects in the area. The site visits were also a demonstration of promoting transparency and to engage with communities in resolving a plethora of challenges that may transpire and other matters related to service delivery. Furthermore, the questions that were written to the Municipality by the Sani Pass Community Forum were also adequately responded to. The delegation proceeded to Khukhulela Water Scheme Phase 1 and 2 and Creighton Water Supply Scheme Phase 2 and were happy with the progress.

Next stop by the leadership and management to gauge progress and to ensure intervention where needed was under the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality. The visit in the local municipality, also led by the Municipality Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo was in a form of also ensuring commitment of fulfilling their mission to provide sufficient, clean, drinkable water to the citizens of the District. The Municipal Manager, Mr G.M. Sineke also led the officials. The visit started at Mbizweni Water Supply Scheme in the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality where the construction of a pump- station and rising main are being built. The monitoring proceeded to Machunwini Water Supply Scheme and the Greater Mnqumeni Water Supply Scheme phase 5. Some of the projects that were visited were as follows: kwaMay Theekloof, and Greater Summerfield. The sites visit programme will continue to all Local Municipalities, where the goals were set to ensure effective intervention where the challenges were found.





The strategic planning session was held in Scottburgh in the South Coast with all managers, directors and political leadership preparing for the 2025/2026 draft budget, IDP.

Harry Gwala District Municipality sticks on its guns to deliver services as strategic planning session sets out the tone

THE strategic planning session for the Harry Gwala District Municipality was a success that has set the tone through a number of ideas that were voiced out and will be implemented to ensure prioritizing service delivery to the people.

This is the Municipality's main plenary session zoomed into community challenges to find solutions especially on priority projects and challenges that in most cases inform the annual plans through a melting pot of diverse ideas.

The strategic planning session was held in Scottburgh in the South Coast with all managers, directors and political leadership present where there was absolutely no doubt that their purpose towards service delivery was meaningful.

This was over and above instilling courage, motivation, ethics and that the workers should be equal to the task of this year's theme: "Balancing the equation, treating everyone equal for better service delivery".

The strategic planning session also focused on the adjustment budget of the 2024/2025 financial year and

preparation for the 2025/2026 draft budget The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) which informs the budget allocations was also reviewed.

The focal point on this was the functionality of the water schemes, progress on the water meter installation and activation, infrastructure services projects and the financial plans to enhance revenue in the District.

Councillors that were part of the meeting were also able to seek clarity on certain issues that were brought forward as part of ensuring accountability and transparency.

The Chairperson of the session, Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo in his remarks emphasized that the most important thing is to make sure the municipality is able to bring to the community of Harry Gwala clean and safe water and sanitation for everyone.

In order to do so, he said, there should be proper planning in terms of budgeting appropriately for all items that are necessary for ensuring service delivery to the local communities.

Innaugural Meeting of iNkosi M.B MJOLI



iNkosi Mboneni Benedict Mjoli took an Oath before the office the Municipal leadership.

THE year 2025 started on a high note with the Harry Gwala District Municipality rolling out the red carpet to welcome a prominent leader of the community iNkosi Mboneni Benedict Mjoli into the District Council.

Inkosi Mjoli was officially sworn in on the 21st of January 2025 at Harry Gwala District Municipality Council Chambers in Ixopo. INkosi Mjoli took his oath of office before the Municipal Manager Mr Gamakulu Sineke, Speaker of District, Cllr Sibongiseni Mdunge, Exco Member, Cllr Simphiwe Bekwa and the District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo.

Mr Sineke welcomed and wished him well in serving

the people of Harry Gwala with integrity and upholding his sworn oath. "You have been given an honour to come represent the people, this role comes with many responsibilities and commitments in a manner that the lives of the residents within the District should matter and bring change for the better especially service delivery," said the Municipal Manager.

Mayor Nxumalo also shared a few words and showed appreciation for iNkosi Mjoli's humanity. He mentioned that they have worked well together previously and that he has no doubt that once again they will continue working well at Harry Gwala District Municipality, as fate has once again reunited them.



THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF AN EMPLOYEE: **PHELOKAZI FAITH MAFA**



Friends, Family and Colleagues gathered in numbers to pay their respect to their beloved one, during the memorial service of Phelokazi Faith Mafa.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality held a memorial service for the late Ms. Phelokazi Faith Mafa in December at Clysdale Community Hall in uMzimkhulu. Ms. Phelokazi Mafa joined Harry Gwala District Municipality as a General Assistant under uMzimkhulu water Satellite in 2010.

The municipal leadership expressed a deep sense of sadness and loss, as they lost a soldier. Phelokazi was known as a warm hearted, joyful and very passionate person about her job and life as a whole. Her passing left a huge void in her loved ones and colleagues. The memorial service was attended by family members, friends, and colleagues.

As the nation is experiencing unacceptable high levels of brutal killing against women and children, the citizens are fed up and cannot continue to call this Gender-Based Violence while women and children continue to be the victims.

Cllr Noluthando Mhathu expressed this during her speech adding that; "My heart bleeds after hearing the news of her passing. We now need men to play their roles to protect

women and children. As women, we have marched, prayed but the killings continue. We know that not all men have lost their hearts and we call on them to be voices of reason. Men must take a stand to stop these killings of women and children. Women cannot even walk freely fearing to be attacked or killed even by those who claimed to love them".

District Speaker, SD Mdunge added that may the condolences "bring you comfort, prayers ease the pain of this loss. Prayers and fond memories are what we have to remember the ones we have lost," said the Speaker, adding that it was a very painful moment to hear the family of Phelokazi detailing the kind of a person she was, indeed "isitsha esihle asidleli".

The Family extended their gratitude to the District for the support they received during this saddest period of their lives. Ms. Phelokazi Faith Mafa was laid to rest on 21 December 2024 at her home in Mambulwini Location.

MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE.

Harry Gwala District Municipality celebrates Senior Citizens

THEME

“AGEING WITH DIGNITY” - THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING CARE AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR OLDER PERSONS WORLDWIDE.



The Golden Games 2024 winners from all local municipalities under the Harry Gwala District were honored by the district Mayor Cllr Z Nxumalo during the Senior Citizens Christmas party.

THE Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo hosted the senior citizens and Golden Games 2024 winners from across the family of municipalities within the region to celebrate Christmas, the season of giving w at Amble-in in Ixopo in December.

The programme’s aim was to show appreciation for the elderly people in the District. Mayor Nxumalo said during the festive season elderly people are mostly neglected by their loved ones and they often spend holidays alone and that this event sought to value them and appreciate their existence as they are important to the society and should be respected

and celebrated.

A guest speaker from the department of health was also invited and spoke about healthy ways the senior citizens should adopt to lengthen their lives.

The Mayor handed over presents to his special guests and indulged in goodies. “On behalf of the Harry Gwala District Municipality I extend my warmest regards and best wishes to everyone. May all of you have a Merry Christmas and this joyous day. May all of you have a prosperous, peaceful, and tranquil new year,” said Mayor Nxumalo. The event ended with entertainment, song and dance, celebrating the day.

Cancer Awareness at Harry Gwala



Medical practitioners and employees engaged on a dialogue during Cancer awareness Day at Harry Gwala District Municipality.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality together with Occupational Health and Safety Unit, held a Cancer Awareness Day at Harry Gwala District Municipality Main Offices, in Ixopo.

Medical practitioners, Dr LG Nemukongwe and Sr Sikhosana from AVIA Occupational Health Care Services addressed the employees on important measures to take to fight cancer.

The engagement was an informative and educational program where different types of cancers were outlined and what preventative methods to perform when detected at an early stage. Sr Sikhosana, in her presentation first described cancer as a disease in which some of the body's cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body.

She then proceeded to advise on how one should take care of their bodies during cancer treatment and how to cope during this difficult time.

During the questions and answers session Dr Nemukongwe highlighted the importance of screening even for slight coughs as it is vital for people to visit medical facilities to eliminate risks.

"We must not ignore symptoms, early detection will give you better fighting chances," said Dr Nemukongwe.

The cancer burden continues to grow globally, exerting tremendous physical, emotional and financial strain on individuals, families, communities and health systems.

Having health awareness dialogues regularly can assist with early detection, quality treatment and survivorship care.

THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY EPWP LAUNCH PHASE 5



Participants of the EPWP Phase 5 enjoyed themselves at the launch, where activities included testimonies from previous beneficiaries who shared their success stories for encouragement.

THE year 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). In celebration of this, the Harry Gwala District Municipality hosted an EPWP PHASE 5 LAUNCH ceremony for EPWP beneficiaries at Peace Initiative Hall in iXopo, in November last year.

The Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo and Speaker Cllr. M.S.D Mdunge in collaboration with sister municipalities uBuhlebezwe, The Greater Kokstad, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and uMzimkhulu Local Municipalities extended their gratitude and support for the event.

The department of infrastructure services created 312 work opportunities in 2024 within the Harry Gwala District and plans to develop training for skills development programs citing that these skills will accommodate job opportunities within the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development & Land Reform as these departments continue to play a huge role and have been instrumental in supporting the EPWP by employing individuals across research stations as well as at the provincial nature reserves through the environment and culture sector.

The Public Works, Provincial Director EPWP Coordinator, Miss Nokwanda Gcaba in her presentation stated that "as we repackage our proposal during Phase 5 and refine our strategies, the core ethos remains unchanged but the aim of the programme is to address the unemployment challenge sustainably, with impact, and in a transformational manner, the road ahead beckons the collective wisdom, expertise, and commitment of each individual present here."

She added that "As we unveil the draft proposal for

EPWP Phase 5, let us embrace the spirit of collaborative engagement, innovative thinking, and resolve towards creating a brighter future for our youth, women, communities, and nation".

The vision of crafting exit pathways is a testament to the long-term commitment towards ensuring that the journey through EPWP leads to enhanced future employability, self-employment, cooperatives or enterprises that can employ more people and intend to ensure that as participants transition out of the program, they are not stepping back into the abyss of poverty and uncertainty, but are striding confidently onto avenues of self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship, and meaningful employment. EPWP Phase 5, extends an invitation to each beneficiary to be a part of this transformative journey. A journey that does not just aim to change lives but aims to change the narrative of our nation.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality previous EPWP beneficiaries shared their journeys as EPWP interns to encourage current EPWs that they can still achieve bigger goals through the program. As the event concluded, Speaker Cllr. M. S.D Mdunge shared his gratitude for the programme. He said in his testimonial, "Opportunities do not discriminate. They know no colour or gender. If you stay committed, success will follow. Use the short-term employment opportunities provided by the government through the EPWP as a stepping stone to achieve your dreams."

The department remains committed to enriching the lives of the community it serves. Through initiatives like the EPWP, it works towards building a modern, growing, and successful province.

MEC BUTHELEZI'S VISIT



The Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Rev Thulasizwe Buthelezi visited spaza shops and wholesalers in Ixopo.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality recently welcomed the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) MEC Rev. Thulasizwe Buthelezi for a stakeholder engagement with Amakhosi of the region. The MEC was welcomed by Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo. The engagement was followed by a by-Law enforcement drive in Ixopo CBD under uBuhlebezwe Municipality. MEC Rev Thulasizwe Buthelezi engaged directly with Amakhosi during a direct engagement with the Harry

Gwala Local House of Traditional and Khoisan leaders, this meeting was for Amakhosi to be able to have discussions with the MEC about traditional leadership in the District.

After this engagement MEC Rev. Thulasizwe Buthelezi led a bylaw enforcement programme in Ixopo. Visiting spaza shops and wholesalers, the MEC ensured compliance with national laws and municipal bylaws. Accompanied by senior officials from the Harry Gwala District, uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, and Cogta. This program is aimed at protecting residents from unscrupulous businesses.

ANTI-CORRUPTION AND THE CODE OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP



The official roll-out of the code of ethical leadership in Local Government.

CONCERNS of ethical consciousness comes at times when the concept of legitimacy in leadership is questioned and public trust in governance is decreasing daily. Recently the Harry Gwala District Municipality’s Risk Management Unit held an Anti-Corruption and the official roll-out of the code of ethical leadership workshop for all local municipalities, Councillors and senior management at uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Council Chambers in Ixopo.

Amongst dignitaries who formed part of the endorsement and official roll-out of the Code of Ethical Leadership in Local Government were Deputy Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr N Jojozi, the Harry Gwala District Speaker Cllr S Mdunge, Mr. Lwandile Bebula Deputy Director: Municipal Investigations, COGTA. Mr Bongani Khuzwayo Deputy Director Anti-Fraud and Corruption, Office of The Premier and officials from uBuhlebezwe, uMzimkhulu, Greater Kokstad and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipalities.

The workshop provided training for the personnel of the District which touches topics related to integrity, honesty,

respect, and accountability, with the intent to recast the narrative around anti-corruption efforts, emphasising the economic, governance and ethical benefits within the district under the initiative aligns with the 2016 Local Government Anti-Corruption Strategy (LGACS), which commits to facilitating a national dialogue on governance and ethical leadership in municipalities.

The LGACS seeks to create a widely consulted document that not only articulates abstract values but also outlines practical ways to implement good governance and ethical leadership. This document, envisioned in the LGACS, now takes the form of the Code for Ethical Governance for Local Government in South Africa.

By adhering to a code of conduct, local government officials and employees demonstrate their commitment to upholding equity and inclusivity in their communities and acting in the best interest of the public. The emphasis is to do the right thing even when no one is watching.

#DoTheRightThingEvenWhenNoOnelsWatching
#SayNoToCorruption



The MEC for Transport and Human Settlements Siboniso Duma visited Inkosi Ntobeko Msingapantsi of Amabhaca Zwelethu Traditional Council.

MEC DUMA WARMLY RECEIVED BY INKOSI NTOBEKO MSINGAPANTSI OF AMABHACA ZWELETHU TRADITIONAL COUNCIL, IN UMZIMKHULU

INKOSI Ntobeko ka Gobizwe Msingapantsi has requested the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements Siboniso Duma to invest in a rail network in the area. The Inkosi has singled out the destruction of roads by trucks carrying timber as a big concern.

Inkosi and his council warmly received Duma, Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, local mayors and local leadership. Duma remarked: "We were blessed to be welcomed by Inkosi and his council. We briefed Inkosi about the building of houses and roads in uMzimkhulu. We also handed over houses to needy communities. In particular, we agree with Inkosi on the need to invest in the rail network in order to move cargo to rail,"

said MEC Duma adding that; "We presented a progress report on the construction of Icabana bridge with a budget of more than R34 million."

The bridge is due for completion in May this year following delays on the side of the contractor. The MEC said that his department was very firm to the contractor and that it will impose severe penalties if there are more delays. Communities cannot wait any longer for what belongs to them, added the MEC. More than 1000 local communities have been employed to work on the resealing of Main Road P601 which provides a link for communities from Franklin to uMzimkhulu. The total length of the road is 45.869 kilometres.

A NEW FLEET TO ASSIST SERVICE DELIVERY



Handing over of rollback trucks at uMngeni Satellite under the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo handed over the rollback truck to the water service department recently.

The Mayor handing the truck said the rollback truck will assist the Municipality as it will be utilized across the whole District to transport the TLB from one point to the other hence the TLB cannot be driven for a long distance.

The rollback truck can also be used for transportation of the municipality's vehicles on breakdown when there is a need for transportation from one point to the next.

The rollback truck will be of great assistance to the Municipality in ensuring that the TLB is transported timeously and the costs for hiring the low bed are reduced or eliminated.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY LGBTQIA+PRIDE PARADE



Proceedings of the day during the LGBTQIA+ PRIDE PARADE held at The Greater Kokstad local municipality which began at Central Park and then proceeded to Oval Sports Ground for the main event to discuss and educate about the impact of LGBTQIA+ in communities.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality hosted the LGBTQIA +PRIDE PARADE at the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality, as part of creating more inclusive spaces that help everyone thrive both within and beyond their communities.

The awareness campaign, hosted in November last year was attended by members of the LGBTQIA + community from uBuhlebezwe, the Greater Kokstad, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini - Zuma and uMzimkhulu local municipalities.

The event commenced with a march from Central Park, to the main event, Oval Sport Ground under the Greater Kokstad Municipality. The campaign was graced by the presence of HGDM Deputy Mayor, Cllr N Jojozi and Speaker, Cllr M. S. D Mdunge with the Greater Kokstad Speaker Cllr B. K Nozaza to support the fight against the suppression of people living as LGBTQIA+ community.

The campaign was aimed at also celebrating and raising awareness to members of the community, through dialogue and the pride parades, workshops, symposia and concerts. The LGBTQIA+ Pride events attract millions of participants around the world.

"The purpose of commemorating this campaign is to recognize and beam a spotlight on the impact that LGBTQIA + individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally, we need to accept the way each of us are living as everyone is God's creation, No one has the right to

choose the sex they prefer," said Cllr N. jojozi.

LGBTQ youth and numerous national advocacy and other organizations gave greater attention to this program by encouraging acceptance and support for all youth, including those who are perceived to be in communities, schools, and other settings urging for them to be safer, better places for all youth.

Cllr Speaker Mdunge concluded by saying, "we need more programs like these to educate people, emphasize the matter for people to understand that there are LGBTQIA+ members because it is sad that we still witness the abuse against people who are gay and LGBTQIA+ in the townships are still facing tremendous discrimination and prejudice, even violence such as the terrible incidence of 'corrective rape' and other hate crimes. It is important to send a message to people in order to accept and welcome who you are. You are full members of our beautiful diverse community. You should never ever feel afraid and live in fear. That is not the kind of society we want to build. So, we wanted to be here to send that message and to give encouragement to people who are LGBTQIA+ in townships, that we love you," said the Speaker of Harry Gwala District Municipality.

#16DaysOfActivism
#NoToKillingOfLGBTQIA+Community

THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER OF HARRY GWALA WELCOMES THE NEWLY APPOINTED EMPLOYEES



Mr Gamakulu Sineke, Municipal Manager of the Harry Gwala District Municipality addressed and welcomed new staff members at the Council Chambers.

THE Municipal Manager, Mr. Gamakulu Ma-art Sineke, warmly welcomed new employees to the Harry Gwala District Municipality on January 14th, 2025. During the meeting, he emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in their roles. The employees were also taken through the Municipality's human resources policies and labour relations related matters to ensure they understood the organization's expectations.

Mr. Sineke reminded the new employees of the privilege it is to work for the Municipality and urged them to adhere to the organization's rules and standards. He encouraged them to bring innovative ideas to the table, which will contribute to the Municipality's growth and progress.

The Municipality has employed 23 permanent employees, and nine contractual employees. Most of these employees are from the water service department, which is the core function of the Municipality. They include by not limited to: Driver Supervisor, Process Controller, Artisan Plumber, Call Centre Agent, Artisan Builder, General Worker and 311 EPWP's.

As the new employees embark on their journey, they become part of an organization committed to delivering quality services to its communities. The Harry Gwala District Municipality envisions being a leading water services provider in the KwaZulu-Natal province by 2030, with its communities benefiting from vibrant agriculture and tourism.

NEW APPOINTMENT

MEET THE NEW PROJECT MANAGER (CHIEF TECHNICIAN)

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality wishes to announce the appointment of Mr. Zwanani Mkhaba as the new Project Manager (Chief Technician) Mr. Mkhaba was born and raised in a rural village at Mfume Mission.

Mr. Mkhaba matriculated from Vumandaba High School in Mfume Mission before successfully completing a National Diploma in Civil Engineering and a B-Tech Degree in Water Engineering (Durban University of Technology).

He is registered as a Professional Engineering Technician with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA).

Mr Mkhaba started working from the very bottom as a Civil Engineering Technician at Makhaotse, Narasimulu & Associates. He then moved to MN Africa where he was employed as a Senior Civil Engineering Technician.

Mr Mkhaba was also employed by Ziinzame Consulting Engineers as a Senior Engineering Technician before moving to Mvubu Consulting where he was employed as a resident engineer. He was then employed by uMkhanyakude District Municipality as a PMU Technician where he served in both PMU and WSA-Gov sections.

In February 2025 Mr Mkhaba joined Harry Gwala District Municipality as the Chief Technician under the Infrastructure Services Department.

He has extensive experience in government real estate and land administration matters as well as construction safety and systems. With his new appointment Mr Mkhaba said that he wishes to provide support to the Infrastructure Services Department team to ensure that projects are successfully completed within the stipulated period.

Moreover, he wishes to provide technical assistance to the Infrastructure Department to ensure that projects are done in accordance with the specifications and standards as required by the municipality.






Mr Zwanani Mkhaba

“
I wish to provide guidance to colleagues and encourage them to register with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). I wish to play a vital role in assisting the municipality to achieve its goal in providing good service delivery to the communities of Harry Gwala District.




“I wish to provide guidance to colleagues and encourage them to register with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). I wish to play a vital role in assisting the municipality to achieve its goal in providing good service delivery to the communities of Harry Gwala District,” added Mr Mkhaba.

MBIZWENI MAIN SEWER COLLECTOR UPGRADE IN UMZIMKHULU TOWN (WARD 16)

HGDM 760 CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMP STATION AND RISING MAIN: PROGRESS CURRENTLY AT 90%

Approved Scope of works as per submitted business plan	Work done on site and comments	Project pictures
Construction of bulk sewer rising main which includes supply, bed (flexible pipe bedding) and lay pipe complete with fittings, couplings, test and disinfect for the following pipe material and pipe diameters	NB: The pipeline is not yet tested, will be tested on 17/02/2025 until 25 /02/2025 as per program	
1300m of 350mm diameter class 12 UPVC rising main pipeline	1164 meters of 355 diameter UPVC rising main pipeline was laid on a 300mm compacted bedding	
250m of 355mm diameter grade A steel rising main pipeline	192 meters of 355mm diameter grade A steel rising main pipeline was laid on top of columns	
Construction of a reinforced concrete sewer pump station and sumps	Reinforced concrete Pump station and sumps were built under the ground additionally built with bricks the offices and guard house. Flooring is still in progress.	
Provision of electricity from Eskom including application fees and energising	Application for Eskom was conducted the quotation is not yet received. A site visit with Eskom was held on 28/01/25 and the promised submission of quotation is on week ending 7/02/2025.	
Installation of 630kl/hour electrified sewer pump and motor	Gorman Ruoo 6500 series coupled to electrical motor, Pump 6506A60-B Motor-185kW/4p (315 S/M) delivered on site, the installation is still in progress	
Installation of 45 kl/hour electrified sewer pump and motor (sump dewatering)		
Installation of 315kVA Substation	Not yet delivered and Installed	
Installation of a 300kVA Generator	Generator delivered on site (stored at Mahlubi site camp) not yet installed	
Installation of valves (isolation, air, flow meters and check)	1 Scour valve and 2 Air valves were installed in chambers	
Installation of an electrical control box	The electrical control box is installed insite the wall at the storage room of the pumpstation	

HGDM 759 CONSTRUCTION OF SEWER OUTFALL, MANHOLES AND JUNCTION BOXES: PROJECT CURRENTLY AT PRACTICAL COMPLETION

Approved Scope of works as per submitted business plan	Work done on site and comments	Project pictures
Construction of sewer outfall which includes supply, lay and bed ((flexible pipe bedding) uPVC pipes complete with compression fittings, coupling, test and disinfect for the following diameters:		
1830m of 315mm diameter class 51 gravity pipeline	1314,430m of 315 dia gravity line was delivered and laid.	
550m of 355mm diameter class 51 gravity pipeline 1000m of 450mm diameter class 51 gravity pipeline	513 of 355mm dia was laid delivered and laid 1216,39 m of 450mm dia was delivered and laid	
120m of 500mm diameter class 51 gravity pipeline	839,55m of 500 dia was delivered and laid	
Supply, delivery and installation of precast manholes of 750mm and 1000mm diameter	Supplied and delivered 500mm high and 1000mm diameter manholes	
Supply, deliver and construction of junction boxes including formwork and reinforcement items, and concrete of grade 25Mpa and (15/19) for blinding layer	Manholes were done in place of the junction boxes	

BHONGWENI SMART METERS INSTALLATION PLAN: 2024/2025 FY

DATE	TARGETED AREA	PLANNED INSTALLATIONS	PLANNED ACTIVATIONS	TARGETED ZONE
Feb-25	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	3
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	3
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	3
Mar-25	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	3
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	200	200	4
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	4
Apr-25	Kokstad - Bhongweni	300	300	4
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	200	200	5
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	5
May-25	Kokstad - Bhongweni	200	200	5
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	6
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	200	200	6
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	200	200	6
Jun-25	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	6
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	7
	Kokstad - Bhongweni	250	250	7
TOTAL		3800	3800	

SMART WATER METERS RECON: JANUARY 2025

DESCRIPTION	SMART WATER METERS	WATER MANAGEMENT DEVICES	TOTAL	AVAILABLE BALANCE
Brought Forward ; 2022/2023 FY	563	0	563	563
Odered 2023/2024 FY	400	300	963	963
Installed 2023/2024 FY	920	300	43	43
Odered 2023/2025 FY	600	700	643	643
Odered 2023/2024 FY	1500		2143	2143
Installed 2023/2024 FY	812 (Ibisi & Franklin)	300	1331	
Installed 2024/2025 FY	843 (Bhongweni, Underberg low cost, Himmeville Low cost)	231	488	488
Replaced Faulty Meters: 2024/2025	19	231	469	469

M U N I C I P A L C A L L C E N T R E

It is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week call centre that logs all customer inquiries and complaints regarding all water, sanitation, billing, planned and unplanned water interruptions, burst pipes, sewer spillages, and faulty meters. The purpose of the Call Centre is to handle, and record all customer queries relating to municipal services and to ensure that at least 70% of queries received at first contact are resolved.

The Call Centre is designed for customers/residents who would rather communicate with the municipality by telephone, and Centres are also designed for Customers/residents who would rather meet with a member of staff and discuss a query. Facebook page is intended for Customers/residents who would rather communicate with the municipality using social media.

How to report?

- nature of complaints
 - Your name and surname
 - Contact number
 - Street address, including suburbs, or village
 - You can also include a photo if applicable
- Similar to when you report these issues over the telephone, your WhatsApp complaint or service request will be logged into the

complaints management system and you will be issued with a reference number via SMS. This reference number can be used to follow up on an unresolved complaint or request.

The WhatsApp number is **0605706193**, alternative use the call centre number **0860106351**, or send an email to **customercare@harrygwalmunicipality.gov.za**.

Disaster Report: DISASTER INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN DECEMBER 2024 TO JANUARY 2025

DURING the month of December 2024 Harry Gwala District Municipality experienced hailstorm, heavy rains, strong winds, structural fire and lightning incidents that affected all four Local Municipalities. The Local Municipalities affected were as follows: DR Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Greater Kokstad, uMzimkhulu and Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipalities.

On the 15th of December 2024 the South African Weather Services (SAWS) issued a level 2 yellow heavy rainfall weather warning This is to protect the public as the adverse weather may pose a danger to people s lives, lead to structural damage and other incidents. The local municipalities and relevant stakeholders were informed of the weather warning and the teams were put on standby.

The occurrence of these incidents resulted in several houses being damaged and others had roofs blown away, most of the families left with no food, clothes and furniture due to the abovementioned incidents. Some structures were destroyed, valuable items and impaired functionality of schools, road infrastructure, systems (electricity) following heavy rains accompanied by strong winds incidents.

A total of sixty-nine (69) households were affected, thirty (30) households were totally destroyed, sixty-six (66) households were partially damaged, fourteen (14) households were left homeless, and three hundred and ninety-nine (399) people affected. During the reporting period and conducting of damage assessments there were no fatalities and injuries.

IMPACT OF INCIDENT PER LOCAL MUNICIPALITY Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality

During the month of October 2024, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality was affected by structural fire, heavy rains, strong winds and lightning incidents in different areas. There were eight (08) households affected, six (06) households were partially damaged, two (02) households were totally damaged. There were no households left homeless, sixty-four (64) people were affected by these incidents. There were no injuries and one (01) fatality as a result of structural fire at ward 11 eMacabazini Location.

Greater Kokstad Municipality



Figure 1 & 2: Depicts Lightning incident and strong wind damage occurred at Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma LM

During the month of October 2024, Greater Kokstad Local Municipality was affected by structural fire incident. Two (02) households damaged by structural fire at Mphela and Singisi Suburbs, with eight (08) people affected. no fatalities and injuries reported.

The Greater Kokstad Municipality reported a motor vehicle accident as a result of the heavy rainfall, on the N2 eNgqumarheni area. Three vehicles collided resulting in three (3) injuries (red code) and no fatalities. The roads are wet and slippery as a result of the rainfall which has since

started in the Greater Kokstad Municipality.



Figure 4: Pictures depicting a motor vehicle accident that occurred along N2 road Engqumarheni Area and a totally destroyed house at Singisi in Kokstad Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality

During the month of October 2024, Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality was affected by heavy rainfall, strong winds and structural fire incidents in different areas. There were ten (10) households affected, six (06) households were partially damaged, one (01) household totally damaged and three(03) people were left homeless. There were sixty- three (63) people affected. There was no fatality and one (01) injury as a result of structural fire that occurred in ward 13 uMgodini Location.

uMzimkhulu Local Municipality

During the month of October 2024, uMzimkhulu Local Municipality was affected by structural fire, heavy rain falls and strong winds incidents in different areas. There were ten (10) households affected, three (03) household was partially damaged, three (03) household totally damaged, four (04) people were homeless, and fifty-seven (57) people were affected by these incidents. There were no fatalities and injuries reported.



Figure 5: depicting household affected by strong winds at uMzimkhulu in Ward 12



Figure 1 & 2: Depicts Lightning incident and strong wind damage occurred at Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma LM

RELIEF MATERIAL PROVIDED TO BENEFICIARIES

- 26 Blankets
- 15 Plastic Sheetings
- 13 Sponges
- Foodparcels

THE HARRY GWALA SUMMER CUP



The Harry Gwala Summer Cup 2024 held at Emakhuzeni Horse-Race Track, Edazini under Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality was attended by dignitaries such as the MEC of Sport, Art, and Culture MEC Mntomuhle Khawula and the Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Cllr Zamo Nxumalo joined by other prominent figures.

THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, MEC Mntomuhle Khawula recently attended the Harry Gwala Summer Cup 2024 horse-racing event at eMakhuzeni Traditional Horse-Racing Track, Edazini, to witness an impressive and memorable rural horse racing games.

The MEC was warmly welcomed by the District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, with other leaders within the District as well as sister municipalities including the host Mayor of Dr. Nkosazane Dlamini-Zuma, Cllr. Sindisiwe Msomi, Traditional leaders, Inkosi Dlamini from Amakhuze Tribal authority, Inkosi Mjoli from Amawushe tribal authority, Inkosi Fodo from Nhangwini tribal authority and the Head of Department Dr Thobile Sifunda. The Harry Gwala Summer Cup 2024 is a

celebrated event in KwaZulu-Natal's horseracing calendar, which took place on the 23 November 2024 and drew an enthusiastic crowd of racing fans and dignitaries.

MEC Khawula's presence showed the significance of the event, which not only showcases local talent but also celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the region. The event featured a series of exciting races, where competitors contested for top honours and substantial prize money. The Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo and MEC Mr Mntomuhle Khawula on their gratitude presentation were very pleased with the smooth running of the event and the large number of residents attended to support the event.

MEC Khawula congratulated all competitors and praised



Prizes were awarded to the champions of the day and locals were also encouraged to participate more in horseracing events.

the event organisers for their efforts in promoting horseracing in the province. He also emphasised the importance of such events in fostering local talent and providing economic opportunities for the region. The MEC also highlighted the cultural significance of horseracing in KwaZulu-Natal, noting its role in bringing communities together.

The Harry Gwala Summer Cup 2024, is not just a sporting event but a vibrant celebration of tradition and community spirit. The race day was filled with festivities, including traditional music, fashion and dance, adding to the lively atmosphere. It serves as a platform for local horse owners and jockeys to showcase their skills and compete at a high level. As the event concluded, there was already anticipation building for the 2025 race, with fans and participants looking forward to another exciting season of competition. Mayor Nxumalo said he was delighted with MEC Khawula's attendance and for pledging support for the event in terms of prize money and stated that "the event reflects that the provincial government is dedicated in supporting local sports and cultural events and promoting unity and economic development". The success of the Harry Gwala Summer Cup

places emphasis on the potential of horseracing as both a competitive sport and a cultural celebration in KwaZulu-Natal. Jockey Mpendulo and Horse owner Mr. Z.B Gamede from Zululand District secured the top spot with the horse, Mbayimbayi, winning a substantial prize of R14000, second place was secured by Troublemaker from Amajuba District.

In third place was Harry Gwala District's own Eliya. Gamede's win was the highlight of the day, earning him accolades and recognition for his outstanding skill and dedication to the sport. The crowd erupted in cheers as Mbayimbayi crossed the finish line, clinching the coveted first place. Mayor Nxumalo awarded the Mayoral recognition award for the 2024 Harry Gwala Summer Cup to the local best performing horse, Eliya with a Horse saddle (horses chair) and other prizes.

This is to encourage more local people to participate in the Harry Gwala Summer Cup. Mayor Nxumalo thanked everyone who was in attendance and said that as the District, the plan is to organise the build up Horse racing from Kokstad and uMzimkhulu so that locals gain more horse participation in this race.



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