



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

“Together We Deliver and Grow”

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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MEDIA STATEMENT:

KZN COGTA MEC HLOMUKA LAUNCHES PROVINCIAL ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENRY CAMPAIGN IN IXOPO

Ixopo: The concept of responsible and active citizenry is enshrined in the constitution of our country. This gives all of us as residents the responsibility to carry ourselves in a manner that will not hinder the roll-out of government services to our communities, it also prevents us from hindering the rights of others.

It is for this reason that we today launched the provincial campaign promoting responsible and peaceful protesting within our communities. Through this campaign, we are calling upon residents to use the correct avenues when raising their grievances. Within our communities, we have many structures such as Traditional Authorities, Amakhosi, izinduna, ward councillors and elected leaders, through this campaign we are promoting the utilisation of these platforms as avenues to air grievances.

It is also important to point out that communities at the ward level have to make inputs into the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) which is a mandated process in local government.

Through this campaign, we aim to rid ourselves of the scourge of violent public protests which cause millions of rand in damages to both public and private infrastructure. We are also calling upon the law enforcement agencies to reign down on those that infiltrate peaceful protests and use them to achieve criminal intentions. The official launch of this campaign was attended by the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo, uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality

Mayor, Cllr Ngubo and the KZN Provincial House of Traditional Leaders
Chairperson Inkosi Chiliza.

Mayor Nxumalo during his address said it was necessary to note that protest must be a last thing to do in addressing issues.

"We encourage community members to use forums and engage community leaders when they have grievances. They must not protest unnecessarily. Also they must not allow individuals in the community to drive them to protest, when there are leaders to address such issues. Protesting because of lack of service delivery should be the last thing we do, also leaders should always address concerns and complaints from the public," said Mayor Nxumalo.

Miss Bakhohlanisile Mtolo from Mahhehle shared the same views as Mayor regarding community protest.

"We know that it is our constitutional right to protest but we must do it peacefully. We must only protest when it is necessary and have tried everything and failed. We must not burn our infrastructure because that will mean we will need more money from government to fix them, " said Miss Mtolo

As part of the programme of the day, we handed over school uniforms, soccer kits and appliances to local Cooperatives.

JOINT STATEMENT BY KZN COGTA AND HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY