## HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Attention: News Editors**

**Date : 10 November 2016**

**OPERATION VALITHONSI ADVANCING**

The Harry Gwala District Municipality has embarked on a war on leaks campaign named “Operation Valithonsi”, which connotes the closing of all drops in taps.

The purpose of the project is to get rid of all water leaks in the District. With water being the core function of the Municipality, Harry Gwala has a responsibility to provide continuous supply of water to all communities as mandated by the National Water Act.

The District is experiencing high volumes of water losses through leaks, which results to about 55% an undesirable situation, particularly in the height of such debilitating drought.

All four local Municipalities under Harry Gwala District (Ubuhlebezwe, Umzimkhulu, Greater Kokstad and Dr Nkosazane Dlamini Zuma) have now set up task teams in order to address the challenge of water leaks.

Approximately 44 water leaks have been fixed in the District thus far. More so, Two (2 )water meters have been changed. Nearly, R25 380 864-00over the past 3 years and we will be saving at least R705 024-00 a month, The project aims at closing 240 leaks by the end of March 2017.

The project began in the beginning of October and it comprises of staff from the Water Services, Infrastructure and Corporate Services Directorates of the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr. Mluleki Ndobe commended the initiative, saying it would help save water and money.

“Water is a scarce resource and Harry Gwala District Municipality has not been spared from the drought that is causing havoc in the country. Through Operation Valithonsi, we will be able to save water and a lot of money we are losing through leaks. We also urge communities to report immediately water leaks so that they could be urgently attended to, “ said Ndobe.