



2025

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

HARRY GWALA
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 2



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MARATHON CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

IDP RoadShow 2025

HARRY GWALA CONTINUES TO MAKE STRIDES TO CURB WATER CHALLENGES

MINISTER "CONNECTS" DEEP RURAL SCHOOL TO DIGITAL WORLD

PREMIER'S CRIME PREVENTION IMBIZO HELD IN UMZIMKHULU UNDER THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Together we Deliver and Grow

SEND ME
TO BUILD THE MZANSI I WANT



Harry Gwala District Municipality



@harrygwala



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www.harrygwalamunicipality.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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HGDM continues holistic fulfilment of its roles to citizens



Mr Ndabezitha Tenza
Communications Manager

It is a great pleasure and honour to once again welcome you to this communication platform to update you on municipal programs and projects, showcasing service delivery on an ongoing basis.

Service delivery is paramount to the municipality. I also want to extend my gratitude for always giving us consistent support and interest in the gradual development within the District.

Transformation marks tremendous progress of sustainable development in our communities, which symbolizes renewal, growth and revolution. Corollary, we always ensure that we cover various aspects by responding to people's needs.

This includes conducting awareness campaigns and outreach programmes aimed at recognizing diverse aspects of humanity, nature, and cultural history.

This year (2025), the municipality inaugurated an interdepartmental committee to promote social cohesion and community development, reflecting the municipality's commitment to creating a positive and inclusive work environment.

We also hosted the Harry Gwala District Marathon, celebrating its 10th anniversary. This prestigious annual event has an undisputed growth every year.

To find a permanent solution in dealing with water and sanitation challenges, the municipality bought four water tankers to speed up service to the community. Service delivery remains our core priority in the District, we can no longer withhold what needs to be delivered under the pretext that there is still another year to go. At the beginning of April, we held consultative meetings with our communities in the form of Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Roadshows as per the provisions of Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act. In all local municipalities within the District, we have been engaging with communities, promoting transparency by presenting the draft budget for the 2025/2026 financial year. The attendance of the IDP meeting signals growth and development in our communities. This is gauged by the level of engagement from the members of the communities.

President of Netball South Africa, Mme Cecilia Molokwane, visited the Harry Gwala District to celebrate 30 years of democracy. The aim was to empower young netball players and promote social responsibility within the

community, especially with the upcoming Netball World Youth scheduled to take place in Gibraltar, September 2025. As an internationally recognized figure in the world of netball, her attendance was a testament to the significance of the event and proves that the District has a legacy of producing renowned sports legends and still produces a young generation that can take this community to the world map.

Empowering youth through skills development programmes is aligned with the District's Development Model, focusing on upskilling people, particularly the youth from underprivileged backgrounds, with much-needed skills. The MEC of Social Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Mbali Shinga, visited Ixopo, Soweto Hall to hand over certificates to 71 youth who graduated from different skills development programs. Mr. Solly Malatsi, the Minister of Communications and Technologies, officially launched the cyber lab program at Pholela Special School at Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's local municipality. This initiative aims to expand learning opportunities in technology since the fourth industrial revolution has taken over the world. Finally, Prof. Blade Nzimande, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, rolled out the outreach campaign in Bulwer. He visited Amakhuze High School and Dlangani High School, where the minister promoted and encouraged interest in science among learners from identified schools.

It is with regret to announce that this year we lost two beloved and dedicated workers, Mr. Mduduzi Menswert Memela and Mr. Sokesimubone "Bra Socks" Memela. I take this moment on behalf of the Municipality to convey our sincere condolences to the bereaved families, friends, and colleagues of the deceased. Revelation 21:4 (to the Family & Friends) [10] God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed.

In conclusion, as the sphere of government closest to the people, we are mandated to deliver basic services to our communities to deepen our democracy.

Our victory is when we change the quality of life of our people for the better, one way by providing basic services for all and free basic services to the poor. Achieving providing services as per our strategic objectives gives us the strength to face the numerous challenges.



MISS NONTUTHUKO NGUBANE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
(PRO)



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



SIBONGILE KUNENE
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER



MS ATH'ENKOSI BAQWA:
COMMUNICATIONS
INTERN



MS FUNDISILE QOZA:
EPWP COMMUNICATIONS
ASSISTANT

As we wrap up the 2024/2025 fiscal year let us commend Cllrs and the administration for continued work to improve the lives of our citizens

GREETINGS to all citizens of the Harry Gwala District Municipality

Allow me to take this opportunity to greet you and thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter which is an imperative communications tool that outlines the work that has been undertaken by the District in a particular period.

Freedom Month

In the month of April South Africa celebrates Freedom Month to mark the country's transition from the oppressive apartheid regime to a free democratic country, and in commemoration of the first democratic elections on 27 April 1994 that gave birth to our constitutional democracy.

This year's Freedom Month was celebrated under the theme "United in Resilience for The Defence of Our Freedom and Democracy."

In South Africa, the freedom we enjoy encompasses a wide-ranging continuum of rights and opportunities, including the right to choose which political party to be affiliated with, social, and economic participation. Unlike the days of oppression, the former marginalized wherein the economy served a specific few, in our democratic state opportunities are open.

Freedom signifies the right to express opinions, assemble freely, and practice religion without discrimination. Essentially, our democracy represents the freedom to participate freely in informing what the government should do on behalf of its citizens. This provides us all with human dignity, including the right to vote and participate in elections, and form political parties.

Moreover, this refers to the right to choose one's trade, occupation, or profession, and to participate in the economy and freedom in South Africa also means equality before the law, regardless of race, colour, ethnicity, or other factors.

Originally born from the protracted struggle for workers' rights and social justice of the late 1800s, Workers' Day has been an international holiday in many countries since 1891. In South Africa, a country with its own long and sordid history of labour and social conflicts.

Workers' Day

I wish to take this opportunity to wish, not only the officials



His Worship the District Mayor
Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo

of the District, but all workers in our country and the rest of the world a Workers' Day which our democratic government officially recognised and observed since the first democratic elections in 1994. The day serves both as a celebration of workers' rights and as a reminder of the critical role that trade unions, and other labour organisations played in the fight against Apartheid.

“

Workers' Day in South Africa holds its own cultural significance, as the public holiday has come to signify not only the sacrifices made on the long road toward fair employment standards but also the bitter battle against Apartheid in which trade and labour unions played a key role.

Workers' Day in South Africa holds its own cultural significance, as the public holiday has come to signify not only the sacrifices made on the long road toward fair employment standards but also the bitter battle against Apartheid in which trade and labour unions played a key role.

Youth Month

As we commemorate Youth Month in South Africa, Youth Month is celebrated in June, and National Youth Day is celebrated on June 16. This is a month in which we honour the role young people played in the fight against apartheid and the Soweto Uprising of 1976. The Soweto Uprising was a turning point in the struggle for liberation in South Africa. After democracy was established in 1994, June was declared Youth Month and June 16 was declared National Youth Day.

Service Delivery

As the 2024/2025 financial year draws to a close with the last day of the current fiscal year being 30 June 2025, I wish to commend both the Council and the administration for the work that has been done in implementing and addressing the needs of our citizens.

In this newsletter and the previous editions, we have endeavoured to highlight the achievements that the District has attained and the challenges that we are faced with in our daily quest to improve the lives of our people.

I do value the consumption of our newsletters and I urge citizens to continue engaging with the municipality through the available various platforms and by engaging directly with their elected representatives.

I thank you



Mr Gamakulu Ma-Art Sineke
Municipal Manager

District convenes strategic session, IDP and Budget Roadshows to map improved implementation of service delivery

AS we return from the easter holidays, I hope you had a blessed and rejuvenated break, citizens of Harry Gwala District. The Harry Gwala District Municipality (HGDM) recently completed its Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Roadshows with our local municipalities, focusing on addressing community concerns and providing the community with service delivery updates.

The IDP roadshows, which took place from the beginning to the end of April 2025, provided an opportunity for us as leadership, management, and officials of the municipality to engage with the community, report back on their suggestions, needs, and to ensure that we meet their expectations.

The community provided valuable feedback and listed their needs in terms of service delivery, for the municipality to consider when approving the budget.

These Roadshows are an essential part of the integrated development planning process in municipalities, as per the provision of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000. The Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998 also plays a role in outlining the structure and functions of the municipalities including their responsibility in ensuring community involvement in the IDP's consultation processes.

As we are in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2024/2025, our finance department is busy preparing and amending budget-related policies, as per the Municipal Systems Act (No. 56 of 2003), which in parts states that: -

- 1) The Municipal Manager of the Municipality must prepare or take all reasonable steps to ensure preparation of the budget-related policies of the municipality, or any necessary amendments to such policies, by the legislation applicable to those policies for tabling in the municipal council by the applicable deadline specified by the mayor in terms of section 21 (1) (b) of the Act.

This ensures that our financial planning is aligned with legislative requirements and community needs.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality held a policy review strategic session in May 2025. It was aimed at developing policies /improving policies that can stand the test of time, serving a greater good rather than individual interests. The session went very well, as policies were amended accordingly and approved as per the legislative guidelines. Having such sessions always plays a crucial role in shaping our municipality's future and ensuring effective governance. Before this session took place, a risk strategic assessment was undertaken on the 13th of March 2025 till the 14th of March 2025, to identify rising risks and to mitigate those risks by adhering to the risk register of the municipality.

A call for action, the commitment and dedication of our employees are vital in achieving the municipality's goals and objectives. We encourage our staff members to take ownership of their work, ensuring they are always productive and present. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to building a better future for the Harry Gwala District community. We are confident that through a collective effort, we can make a positive impact on our community at large.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

I thank you.
Mr. G. M. Sineke
Municipal Manager

We encourage our staff members to take ownership of their work, ensuring they are always productive and present. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to building a better future for the Harry Gwala District community.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



MR. KHULANI MTHEMBU
BRIAN MZIMELA
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



MR. NKULULEKO BIYASE
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES



MRS. THOBILE THELMA
THIYANE-MAGAQA
CORPORATE SERVICES



MR. LINDUMUSA GWALA
WATER SERVICES

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SOUTH Africa is a water-scarce nation that faces complex water resource management challenges. These challenges necessitate a holistic approach based on the National Water Act, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), and sustainable practices to ensure equitable access and long-term water security.

Key Legislation and Framework:

- **National Water Act (NWA):**
The primary legal framework for water resource management, emphasizing sustainable and equitable use for the benefit of all.
- **National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS):**
Provides a framework for the protection, use, development, conservation, management, and control of water resources.
- **Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM):**
Promotes the coordinated development and management of water and land-related resources to maximize economic and social welfare while ensuring ecosystem sustainability.
- **Water Services Act:**
Provides a regulatory framework for the provision of water supply and sanitation services.

Key Challenges and Issues:

- **Water Scarcity:**
South Africa is a semi-arid country with low rainfall and limited underground aquifers, making water resource management an important factor in ensuring sustainable water supply for all.
- **Climate Change:**
Increased climate variability, including droughts and floods, poses a significant threat to water resources. Climate change needs to be factored in every aspect of water resource management as its impact is already experienced across the country.
- **Population Growth and Urbanization:**
South Africa's population has been steadily increasing, putting additional pressure on already limited water resources. Urbanization and the expansion of industrial activities further exacerbate the demand for water, leading to a critical imbalance between supply and demand.

- **Unsustainable Water Demand:**

Unsustainable water demands and withdrawals by various users, including agriculture, industry, and mining etc contribute to water scarcity.

- **Inequitable Access:**

Mismanagement of water resources disproportionately affects marginalized communities who lack access to potable water and sanitation.

- **Infrastructure Challenges:**

Deficiencies in water infrastructure and management can lead to water losses and reduced efficiency. Aging and inadequate water infrastructure contribute to the water shortage. Many areas /communities experience significant water losses due to leaks and inefficiencies in the distribution system

Water Resource Management Strategies and Practices:

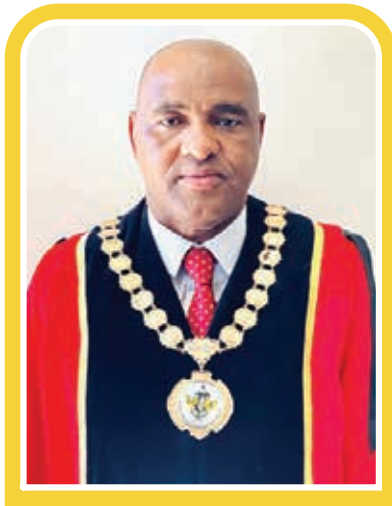
- **Water Conservation and Demand Management:**
Implementing measures to reduce water consumption through efficient technologies, pricing policies, and public awareness campaigns.
- **Water Quality Management:**
Protecting water sources from pollution and ensuring the quality of water for various uses.
- **Groundwater Management:**
Sustainable extraction and management of groundwater resources to supplement surface water supplies.
- **Rainwater Harvesting and Greywater Recycling:**
Exploring alternative water sources to diversify supply and reduce reliance on traditional sources.
- **Catchment Management:**
Managing water resources at the catchment level, considering the interconnectedness of water bodies and ecosystems.
- **Stakeholder Participation:**
Involving various stakeholders in water management decisions to ensure equitable and sustainable water use.

NB: don't miss the next issue where we will be expanding on *Water Resource Management Strategies and how you can play a role in managing the water resources.*

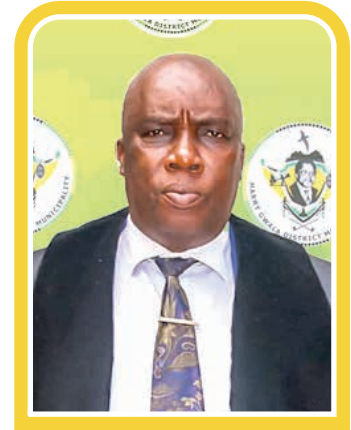
HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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

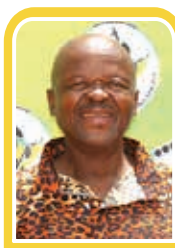


CLLR. B. SIBENI



CLLR. N. MATHE

TRADITIONAL LEADERS



INKOSI V.V. ZIMEMA



INKOSI M.S.I. ZULU



INKOSI M.B. MJOLI



Athletes were ready to partake the race at Highflats (R61) starting point to Umzimkhulu FET Sayidi College finishing point.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MARATHON CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

A decade of the Harry Gwala District Marathon was celebrated recently at the finish line at uMzimkhulu FET in Sayidi during this year's instalment of the ever growing race.

The race was won by Sinethemba Tshangase from Umzimkhulu who ran the coveted 42.2km race and walked away with an amazing R60 000 for first position and his finishing time was 02:20:48.

The first runner up was Ntsindiso Mphakathi whose finishing time was 02:21:01 and Sphamandla Nkosi came in third position his time was 02:21:13.

The ladies 42.2km race champion was Rhonex Kogo coming all the way from Kenya, who also walked away with the prize money of R60 000 with her finishing time being 02:42:11.

Second position being taken by Jenet Mbhele she walked away with R30 000 finishing the race with a time of 02:49:59 and in third position was Nobukhosi Tshuma who received R15 000 with her 02:53:21 finishing time.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo said it was amazing that this race has reached 10 years and it is even more exciting that this race is growing each year.

"I really cannot believe that we are 10 years old now, we have to celebrate this milestone especially now that



the race is growing. We obviously need to do so much more to grow it even further and reach more athletes so they can participate," said Mayor Nxumalo.

Harry Gwala District Municipality in partnership with uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, uMzimkhulu Local Municipality, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Genius Athletic Club and other stakeholders hosted the Harry Gwala Marathon.



A jolly moment to the winners and supporters who took part in the Harry Gwala District Marathon. The 10th year celebration of this race was very memorable to all who took part.

The race started in Highflat(R612) and the finish was at UMzimkhulu College. Athletes in this marathon shared prize monies valued at over R500 000.

The Race Director Celi Makhoba speaking about this race which he has been part of since its inception, said it was exciting to see many athletes running in this race.

"We have to celebrate the 10 years of the Harry Gwala District Marathon. We have seen athletes growing in this race and seeing a number of athletes being part of this race is exciting", said the race director.

Harry Gwala Marathon Results:

Males 42.2 km

1. Sinethemba Tshangase
2. Ntsindiso Mphakathi
3. Sphamandla Nkosi
4. Moeketsi Mosuhli
5. Cijimpi Molio
6. Mfundo Changwe
7. Phumlani Dlamini
8. Makwande Mngcwengi
9. Mholi Jali
10. Asisipho Joshia Maimane

Women 42.2km

1. Rholex Kogo
2. Jenet Mbhele
3. Nobukhosi Tshuma
4. Mathanda Letsie
5. Khechane Refiloe Pascalina
6. Fikile Mbuthuma
7. Kebogile Motshabi
8. Unathi Mngcwengi
9. Zama Mokoena
10. Lines Chaka

21.1km open Men

1. Thabang Sekonyela
2. Nkosikhona Mhlakwana
3. Badboy Toka
4. Letlatsa Nape
5. Siboniso Sikhakhane
6. Benjamin Nyongesa
7. Tshepang Mokhethi
8. Lindelani Mjwara
9. Zukile Vellem
10. Timothy Kipkoech Kosgey

21.1km Open Women

1. Andisiwe Njunguza
2. Nonhle Dlamini
3. Nokuthula Ntshangase
4. Silindile Biyela
5. Nokukhanya Memela
6. Sinothile Mthiyane
7. Them belle Mjwara
8. Refiloe Karreebos
9. Siphokazi Nkababe
10. Thembisile Mnwelase

10km Open Men

1. Tsietsi Sello
2. Semenya Nkoka
3. Teboho Noosi
4. Mphatso Nadolo
5. Simphiwe Mdakane

10km Open Women

1. Nthabisengi Letokoto
2. Malineo Malolo
3. Anele Ndawonde
4. Rorisang Tlholha
5. Inganathi Ngubo

IDP ROADSHOW 2025



The Greater Kokstad donated agricultural equipment to the Mariaskop community farmers.

THE Municipal Systems Act (MSA) (Act 32 of 2000) requires all municipalities to prepare and annually review Integrated Development Plans. Section 24 of the (MSA) further holds that the planning undertaken by a municipality must be aligned with, and complement the developmental plans and strategies of other affected municipalities and other organs of state so as to give effect to the principles of co-operative government contained in Section 41 of the constitution.

The act further enjoins the executive committee or executive mayor of a municipality or, if the municipality does not have an executive committee or executive mayor, a committee of councillors appointed by the municipal council, in accordance with section 29 to-

- Manage the drafting of the municipality's Integrated Development Plan;
- Assign responsibilities in this regard to the municipal manager; and
- Submit the draft plan to the municipal council for adoption by the council.

Section 26 of the same Act further direct municipalities on the core component of the integrated development

plans, and it state that-An Integrated Development Plan must reflect-

- (a) The municipal council's vision for the long-term development of the municipality with special emphasis on the municipality's most critical development and internal transformation needs;
- (b) An assessment of the existing level of development in the municipality, which must include an identification of communities which do not have access to municipal basic services;
- (c) The council's development priorities and objectives for its elected term, including its local economic development aims and its internal transformation needs;
- (d) The council's development strategies which must be aligned with any national or provincial sectoral plans and planning requirements binding on the municipality in terms of legislation;
- (e) A spatial development framework which must include the provision of basic guidelines for land use management system for the municipality;
- (f) The council's operational strategies;
- (g) Applicable disaster management plans;



Community members attended in numbers for integrated development planning across all the district.

- (h) A financial plan, which must include a budget projection for at least the next three years; and
- (i) The key performance indicators and performance targets determined in terms of section 41.

Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act further state 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, including in-

- The preparation, implementation and review of its integrated development plan in terms of Chapter 5 of the Municipal Systems A

The Integrated development planning/sdf roadshows for the 2024/25 financial year started on the 1 April 2025 until 24 April 2025. The district together with the Local Municipalities including uMzimkhulu, Greater Kokstad and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Ubuhlebezwe, visited different halls addressing community members, the community also had an opportunity to ask questions and get clarification on service delivery issued



The municipal bought four water tanker trucks as a temporary intervention to ensure provision of water to the community.

HARRY GWALA CONTINUES TO MAKE STRIDES TO CURB WATER CHALLENGES

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality's political leadership and management continue to roll-up their sleeves to find a lasting permanent solution for water and sanitation challenges.

This comes in the wake of the procurement of four water trucks as a temporary intervention to ensure provision of water to the citizens in a speedy manner.

This is one of the positive results yielded by the Harry Gwala District Water during their Indaba that the Municipality should also concentrate on enhancing the municipal plant and equipment capabilities while future plans to fully overcome water challenges are addressed As per the plans.

Each of the 18000L water trucks has a capacity to deliver water to three different villages in a day. The officials will work in a shift system which will also curb overtime drastically as the municipality's cost-cutting measures are a pivotal spin-off for the additional fleet.

Moreover, the Municipality is set to get rid of hiring and outsourcing equipment since it is exorbitant to do so.

The official handover of the trucks became eventful and exciting to some members of the community to know that their plight for water scarcity is a priority.

The Harry Gwala District Municipal Manager, Mr Gamakulu Sineke, Municipality Speaker, Cllr Sibongiseni Mdunge, Water Services Chairperson, Cllr Simphiwe Bekwa and Senior Management were also excited over the

“

This should not paint any false picture that some other areas have no challenges of water, they are there but are manageable.



It was a wonderful day when Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, tested the newly brought water tankers for Harry Gwala District Municipality. Municipal Management, Political Leadership and employees joined in celebrating these new trucks.

auspicious occasion.

The District Municipality Mayor, Councillor, Z.D. Nxumalo said the temporal intervention does not mean there are no future plans in place.

"The project of about 35 springs protection and boreholes is in place to ensure that people receive clean water," said Cllr Nxumalo. He further confirmed that the purchasing of water trucks is part of the Water Indaba resolutions.

Cllr Nxumalo appealed to local communities to report any element of the misuse of the trucks, emphasizing they will also engage the local municipalities to report any elements relating to the misuse of the trucks.

He said the vision is that no one should be without

water. As a Water Services Authority (WSA) and a Water Services Provider (WSP) in the Harry Gwala District it the Municipality's duty and responsibility to ensure the provision of water and sanitation services throughout the District are undertaken.

The four water trucks were allocated to areas of concern where water challenges are rife. "This should not paint any false picture that some other areas have no challenges of water, they are there but are manageable," said Cllr Nxumalo.

The trucks were allocated to the uMzimkhulu, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality. The total costs of all four trucks amounts to a total of R 11 732 891,79.

GREATER MNQUMENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME PHASE 5 AND 6 (AFA) MIS467168 UPGRADE OF GREATER MNQUMENI WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND PUMPING STATIONS

Contract No: **HGDM 769/HGDM/2021** | Report Date: **7 April 2025**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project name: **GREATER MNQUMENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME PHASE 5 AND 6 (AFA) MIS467168 MNQUMENI ABSTRACTION WORKS, PUMPING SYSTEM AND RISING MAIN: CIVIL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL.**

Project registration number: **2021MIGFDC43418415**

MIG-MIS number: **MIS467168**

Project location: **Coordinates: Lat-S 30° 27' 21.18" Long-E 30° 00' 40.48"**
Local Municipality: uMzimkhulu LM, WARD 12, 13, 14, 16

Project type: **Water Project**

MIG funds (NOR): **R 92 838 948.29**

Project Cost: **R 84 424 325.28**

Amount Spent in Previous Years (direct and Indirect): **R 59 169 597.74**

Amount Spent in Current 2024/2025 FY (Direct and Indirect): **R 11 570 378.44**

Amount Spent this month (as per Claim submitted): **Mabona Civils (IPC19): R776 765.96 incl. VAT**

ECA Consulting: R 0.00 incl. VAT

Total: R 776 765.96 incl. VAT

Mabona Civils: R 1 400 00.00 incl. VAT

Cumulative Retention to date Owing (to this month):

New/Rehabilitation/Upgrading: **New**

Name of Consultant: **ECA Consulting**

Name of Contractor: **Mabona Civils and Plant Hire**

Planned date (Contractor on Site): **12 October 2022**

Actual start date: **13 October 2022**

Appointment of Consultant: **6 July 2022**

Date of site establishment: **13 October 2022**

Actual/projected end date: **19 July 2023**

Delays (State delays): **Rain, Adverse weather, EDTEA and Access to critical work areas Delays, additional works**

Extension of Time (period): **966 Days**

Revised completion date: **5 June 2025**

Project is in Penalties: **0 Days @ R3000p/day = R0.00**

Expected Completion Date: **5 June 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE

The scope and extent of work comprises the followings:

- Establishment of the Contractor's camp and plant on Site and the removal of all site establishment on completion of the Contract.
- Temporary works to enable construction of the abstraction tower
- Doweling of anchors into the foundation rock
- Construction of approx. 11m high reinforced concrete abstraction tower and access bridge
- Construction of brick with concrete frame pumping station building on abstraction tower
- The supply and delivery to site of all pumping equipment, pipework and ancillary specials
- Installation of all pumping equipment, pipework and ancillary specials
- The supply and delivery to site of approx. 515m of 355mm PN 12.5 PE100 HDPE pipe
- The clearing of vegetation and trees along the access road and pipeline routes.
- The excavation of approx. 515m of pipeline trench.
- The handling, laying, butt welding, bedding, testing and disinfecting of 355mm diameter approx. 515m long of HDPE pipeline.
- The construction of valve, air valve, scour and meter chambers.
- The construction of approx. 180m long 3.5m wide access road.
- The construction of gabion Retaining wall
- The demolition of the existing abstraction works
- The recovery and stockpiling for reuse of existing gabion rock within the existing abstraction structure
- The refurbishment and repair of the existing water treatment plant
- The refurbishment and repair of the existing high lift pumping stations
- The refurbishment and repair of the existing rising mains
- The refurbishment and repair of the existing reinforced concrete reservoirs.
- Maintaining the whole of the works constructed for a period of 12 calendar months after a Certificate of Completion has been issued

The project is practically complete.

GREATER MNQUMENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME PHASE 5 AND 6 (AFA) MIS467168

Gabion Location: 30°27'20.05"S 30°00'40.93"E



GREATER MNQUMENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME PHASE 5 AND 6 (AFA) MIS467168 UPGRADE OF GREATER MNQUMENI WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND PUMPING STATIONS

Contract No: **HGDM 769/HGDM/2021** | Report Date: **7 April 2025**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project name: **GREATER MNQUMENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME PHASE 5 AND 6 (AFA) MIS467168 MNQUMENI ABSTRACTION WORKS, PUMPING SYSTEM AND RISING MAIN: CIVIL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL.**

Project registration number: **2021MIGFDC43418415**

MIG-MIS number: **MIS467168**

Project location: **Coordinates: S-30° 27' 21.18" Long-E 30° 00' 40.48"**

Local Municipality: uMzimbhulu LM, WARD 12, 13, 14, 16

Project type: **Water Project**

MIG funds (NOR): **R 92 838 948.29**

Project Cost: **R 84 424 325.28**

Amount Spent in Previous Years (direct and Indirect): **R 59 169 597.74**

Amount Spent in Current 2024/2025 FY (Direct and Indirect): **R 11 570 378.44**

Amount Spent this month (as per Claim submitted): **Aquaplan: R490 881.12 incl. VAT**

ECA Consulting: R 0.00 incl. VAT

Total: R 776 765.96 incl. VAT

Aquaplan: R1 237 373.72 incl. VAT

Cumulative Retention to date Owing (to this month):

New/Rehabilitation/Upgrading: **New**

Name of Consultant: **ECA Consulting**

Name of Contractor: **AquaPlan SA**

Planned date (Contractor on Site): **26 October 2022**

Actual start date: **27 October 2022**

Appointment of Consultant: **6 July 2022**

Date of site establishment: **31 January 2023**

Actual/projected end date: **26 October 2023**

Delays (State delays): **Environmental Delay + adverse weather conditions + Additional works**

Extension of Time (period): **336 Days**

Revised completion date: **26 September 2024**

Practical Completion Date: **24 July 2024**

Completion Handover Date: **14 November 2024**

Defects Liability Period: **14 November 2024 till 14 November 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE

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 Stabilization
- 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.

The project is practically complete.

GREATER MNQUMENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME PHASE 5 AND 6 (AFA) MIS467168

Location: 30°27'21.11"S 30°00'49.78"E



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality has successfully hosted a two-day Women's Commission strategic planning session, which commenced on the 17th of February 2025 and concluded on the 18th of February 2025. This year's theme, "Gender Responsive Budgeting", focused on promoting gender equality and addressed the specific needs of women through budgets that advances equality.

The strategic planning session evaluated the current progress made by the Women Commissions in all local municipalities and discussed as well strategies to enhance the work of Commissions for the betterment of women throughout the District. The Harry Gwala District Speaker Cllr. Sibongiseni Mdunge, in his welcoming remarks emphasized the significant role women play in the economy and the importance of their voice in budgeting for women's programmes. The chairperson of the Women's Commission, Cllr. Z.P. Dlamini, stressed that positive change can come from such commissions.

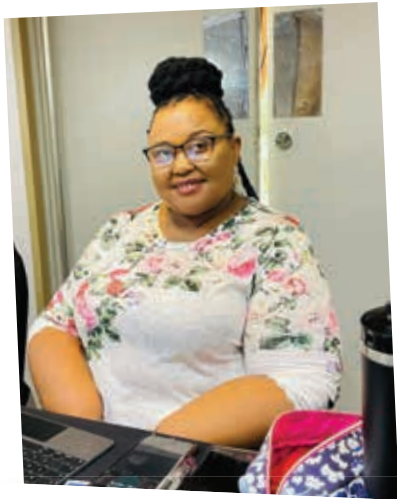
Key topics that were discussed during the session included:

- Gender-Based Budgeting
- Gender-Based Violence and women capacitation programs
- Women Participation in Key LED economic drivers
- EPWP objectives
- Women in leadership Development.

The Women's Commission is a section 79(a) committee that reports directly to the Council. The committee is functional, meets quarterly, and has a budget for each financial year. It comprises 13 female Councillors, one female Head of Department (HOD), one acting HOD, Chief Operations Officer, Deputy CFO, female senior managers and a representative from the Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA).

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





HARRY GWALA VISITS SCHOOLS

2025 Back to school continuation programme drive by the Harry Gwala District Municipality.



Pupils in schools were gifted with science kit to improve their education.

OFFICIALS of the Harry Gwala District Officials partook in the back-to-school program which saw the Mavangana High school at eMashakeni in Lufafa and the Sizisizwe High school in Springville under the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality assessed to ascertain school functionality.

The program intended to empower young minds through technology and to encourage rural learners to strive for excellence in education and to visualize beyond their places of birth. As a result of the leadership of the Mayor of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo the schools were gifted with the science kits, calculators, dairies, lab coats and vouchers for the deserving children.

Cllr Speaker Sibongiseni Mdunge addressed the learners, by highlighting government initiatives like bursary opportunities for high-achieving learners. The Speaker encouraged learners to take ownership of their

education, respect teachers, and to utilise digital platforms for personal growth since “we are now living in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), where technology has taken over”.

With a strong start to the academic year, each and every school has poised for a productive and successful year. The District Officials urged the school's stakeholders to continue their dedication to hard work, emphasizing the importance of education and urging the Class of 2025 to stay focused and perform better than the previous one.

During the school's engagements social and cultural challenges were discovered which played a huge role in the challenges that affected the 2024 academic performance in these schools. The principal, SMT & SGB members explained that they were facing challenges and were seeking solutions from the Municipality and the Department of Education.



HARRY GWALA SENDS-OFF A DEDICATED WORKER WITH DIGNITY



Moment of sadness as colleagues, friends and family share their memories they had with 'Bra Socks'.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality held a dignified send off and a heartfelt commemoration of the life of the dedicated employee, Mr Sokesimubone Memela.

Commonly known with his nickname "Bra Socks", he was described as one of the most humbled workers whose passing has left a huge void after having worked in the Municipality's Finance Department for 21 years.

A fashionista, always dressed neatly and committed to his work, Mr Memela died after a short illness.

The painful memories and pain he left behind were shared by the municipal workers, his family and friends at his memorial service, which triggered well-articulated speeches from the management, colleagues, friends and family.

The memorial service was held in Ixopo at Fairview Hall. He worked for the Municipality as a senior store clerk under the budget and treasury office.

The Municipality's Chief Financial Officer Mr. Mthembeni Mzimela represented the Municipality at the memorial service. He firstly thanked the Memela

Family for allowing them an opportunity to work with the deceased Mr Memela.

Mzimela said it was a privilege to have crossed paths with Mr Sokesimubone Memela.

The Senior Human Resource Officer Mrs Nosaziso Sikhosane, closing a file of the employee (Mr Memela) read a quote: "Death takes the body, God takes the soul. Our mind holds the memories. Our heart keeps the love. Our faith let us know that we will meet again - unknown."

On behalf of the family, his brother Mr. Sakhile Memela thanked the municipality for a celebration fitting for a king. "As a family, we would like to send our gratitude for a memorial service fit for a king for my brother. He loved his family, and he loved his job," said Sakhile, adding It showed that the officials of the Municipality loved his brother too.

"You actually have a problem if you don't get along with people you work with as you spend more time with them than at home. We feel your love and warmth in this very difficult time in our family, My brother was everything to our family. We feel the void," said Sakhile.

ANOTHER DEVOTED MUNICIPAL WORKER, “MDU” PASSES ON



Family, friends and colleagues gathered together to say their goodbyes to Cde ‘Mdu’ Memela.

YET another dedicated municipal worker, committed to his task, Mduduzi Memela, commonly known with his nickname “Mdu” has passed on.

A devoted general worker under the Harry Gwala District Municipality stationed at the satellite offices at the Dr. Nkosazane Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality, sadly passed away on the 7th of February 2025.

Born on the 25th of April 1975, Mr Memela would be remembered for his exceptional qualities, including being a fast learner, a forgiving person, and someone who always looked beyond any issues but concentrated instead on executing the tasks under his line function.

The memorial service, held at Etafuleni Hall in Kwa Phini, was attended by colleagues, family, and friends who gathered to pay their last respects.

Councillor Bhekithemba Khathi from Ward 9 welcomed everyone and acknowledged the significant loss of Mr. Memela's passing which brought the community and the municipality together in mourning and remembrance.

Mr. Zwelikayise Hlengwa, who is an area Manager at NDZ satellite offices, shared his sadness and fond memories having had worked with Mr Memela for seven years at the municipality.

Mr. Memela's older brother, Mr. Sifiso Memela, also paid tribute to his brother, describing him as a person of peace who never held grudges or resorted to violence. The funeral service for Mr. Memela took place at Embhulelweni. The Harry Gwala District Municipality continues to extend its deepest condolences to the Memela family and friends during this difficult time.



Disaster Management Center says “everyday counts, act for resilience today.”

HARRY GWALA DISASTER MANAGEMENT INDABA A SUCCESS

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality today, convened an Indaba under the theme “EVERYDAY COUNTS, ACT FOR RESILIENCE TODAY” at the Amble Inn Hotel in iXopo recently. The Indaba, hosted by the Harry Gwala District Disaster Management Center, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs’ Provincial Disaster Management and the National Disaster Management brought together disaster management professionals, emergency service practitioners, private sector representatives, sector departments, researchers, and thought leaders.

Speaking during the Indaba the Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo said: “It is a great honour to participate in the Indaba as it provides an opportunity to engage with all kinds of disaster practitioners to discuss this crucial matter that we face as the KwaZulu-Natal Province. As local government we are necessitated by the unpredictable weather conditions as proven in recent years to strengthen the capacity of local government in disaster risk management. This is a great platform to bring innovative ideas to control disaster incidents and share ideas that will save lives of our communities. Disaster management is everybody's responsibility”.

The aim of convening the Disaster Management Indaba was to bring various subject matter experts to engage and chart effective response strategies to disasters under the 2025 Theme “Everyday Counts, Act for Resilience Today”.

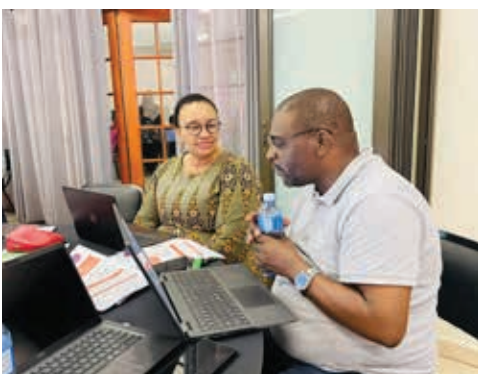
It was stated as well during the Indaba that the Disaster Unit is in an advanced state to respond better

and effectively to disasters in future, be it fire, floods or any other disaster incident that threatens the lives of communities. In the past and currently as well, the province has been affected the most by the disasters that struck the country, and the Indaba was a meeting of the minds to find pre-emptive solutions so that when disaster strikes all systems are in place to prevent or react. The presentations from the various stakeholders illuminated the importance of effective early warning systems, risk reduction, and building resilience.

The focus on building the capacity of local government to deliver essential services and to respond to disasters adequately was also highlighted as an important way forward. They also engaged on incident reporting protocols and how the information and communication system assist in ensuring that there is synergy and efficient response to incidents.

The Indaba consolidated the local government's perspectives on the ongoing review of the country's disaster management system and addressed pressing issues affecting the District. The arrival of the rainy season quickly translates into widespread flooding across the country, with each year bringing with it more severe impacts on vulnerable communities.

While disaster management professionals work tirelessly to mitigate risks and respond effectively, lives remain lost, critical infrastructure is left damaged, and services are disrupted. Restoring normalcy and rehabilitating infrastructure remains challenging due to the significant social and economic implications. The burden on the national fiscus is also becoming unsustainable in the long run.



DISASTER REPORT

DURING the month of February 2025, the Harry Gwala District Municipality experienced hailstorm, heavy rains, strong winds, structural fire, drowning and lightning incidents which affected all four local municipalities within the region.

A total of 74 households were affected, and 34 of these households were destroyed, while 43 households were partially damaged. Of the affected households 13 were left homeless, and 417 people affected. During the reporting period and after conducting assessments of damages, it was ascertained that there were no fatalities and injuries.

uMzimkhulu Local Municipality experienced a drowning incident on the 2nd of February 2025 during the same period. In an unrelated incident, it was reported that three individuals lost their lives while performing a cleansing ritual at the Ngwagwane River in Esidikideni, Ward 2 in uMzimkhulu. Their bodies were later discovered and confirmed dead by the South African Police Services (SAPS).



Pictures depicting structural fires occurred t Greater Kokstad and uMzimkhulu LM.

INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN MARCH 2025

During the month of March 2025, the Harry Gwala District Municipality experienced several severe weather-related incidents, including heavy rainfall, strong winds, structural fires, drownings, and lightning strikes. These incidents affected all four Local Municipalities within the district: Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Greater Kokstad, uMzimkhulu, and Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipalities.

On 11 March 2025, the South African Weather Service (SAWS) issued a Level 2 disruptive weather warning, effective from 00:00 on 13 March to 14 March 2025. The warning aimed to safeguard the public, as the anticipated adverse weather conditions posed risks to human lives, potential structural damage, and other associated hazards. In response, the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) activated a Provincial Joint Operations Centre

(JOC) at 08:00 on 12 March 2025. Local municipalities and relevant stakeholders were alerted, and emergency response teams were placed on standby.

A total of 120 households were affected with 79 structures totally destroyed, 72 structures were partially damaged, 39 households were left homeless, and 654 people affected. Two fatalities were reported, one fatality as a result of structural fire in Ward 5 of uMzimkhulu and one drowning fatality was also reported under the Dr Nkosazane Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality's Ward 11. The Municipality also experienced road accidents that occurred along the R56, R612 and R617 roads within the Harry Gwala District Municipality's area of jurisdiction.

Assistance provided by the District Municipality.

- 40 Blankets
- 27 mattresses
- 11 Emergency relief box
- 6 Plastic sheeting's
- 2 Funeral groceries

INTERGRATED DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED IN QUARTER 3.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality Disaster Management Centre conducted public awareness campaigns to inculcate the culture of disaster risk avoidance as well as fire safety education and also to outline support for local municipalities and other sector departments during times of disaster. These community education programmes held recently were targeting communities, schools, ward councillors and other critical stakeholders. The District working with local municipalities intensified its capacity building to Traditional Councils and other critical stakeholders.



Pictures depicting Risk Assessments, Disaster Management & Fire Safety Awareness Campaigns conducted for the month of February and March 2025 at uMzimkhulu and Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipalities

Harry Gwala District Municipality and its family of local municipalities continued to be involved with ongoing prevention and mitigation interventions in disaster management. The District and teams from local municipalities teams must always be on standby and ready to respond to any disaster eventuality which may lead to loss of lives or property within the District.

HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ENHANCES COMMUNICATION SKILLS THROUGH WORKSHOP



The Communications Unit host a successful workshop.

THE Communications Unit of the Harry Gwala District Municipality recently organized a communications workshop for its staff members. The workshop, held on the 18th of March 2025, aimed to enhance communication skills, with a specific focus on internal communication.

Effective internal communication is crucial for the success of any organization. It helps to foster collaboration, increase productivity, and to ensure that all staff members are working towards a common goal. The workshop emphasized the importance of internal communication and provided staff members with the practical and demonstrative skills and knowledge needed to communicate effectively.

The workshop was a great success, with staff members actively participating in the questions and answer session. To encourage engagement and assess their understanding of the material, staff members were rewarded with goodies for answering questions correctly. This initiative helped to ensure that staff members were attentive and absorbed the information presented during the workshop.

The workshop achieved its goal of enhancing communication skills among staff members. The interactive nature of the workshop helped to engage staff members and promote a better understanding of internal communication. The Communications Unit plans to build on this initiative to further improve overall communication within the municipality.

THE DISTRICT COMMUNICATORS FORUM (DCF) CONTINUES TO HOLD MEETINGS QUARTERLY

THE Municipal Structures Act of 1998, and the Municipal Systems Act of 2000, the

Access to Information Act of 2000 and the supreme law of the Republic, the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 place unique obligations on local government communicators and compels high levels of transparency, accountability, openness, enhanced participatory democracy and

direct communication with the citizenry in improving their lives for the better continues to be the bedrock of the Harry Gwala's District Communicators Forum.

The Forum, which convenes quarterly held their recent meeting on the 4th of March 2025 at Ubuhlebezwe Fire and Rescue Disaster Boardroom Under the Harry Gwala District Municipality. The District Communicators Forum fosters intergovernmental relations between district municipalities and local Municipalities in the district and brings together communicators to strategize and enhance communication skills.

Communicators have a platform to present to the forum their Municipalities achievements, highlights and also share best practices.

The engagement is primarily centered on encouraging public participation in the affairs of government by the citizens of the Harry Gwala District Municipality.

Major Government stakeholders formed part of the session such as The Independent Electorate Commission (IEC), South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Department of Health and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) whose representatives in the meeting engaged to support the functionality and effectiveness of flow of communication received and distributed strategically to the public with intent.

The mandate of the Forum is to gather and capture timely, accurate and accessible information for the public at large. Such sessions play a pivotal role in shaping and closing gaps with the volume of information shared. This means that the Forum refines information before it is disseminated to communities.

The obligation is to educate the public about policies, programmes, service delivery and initiatives from all three spheres of government.

The engagements are held quarterly within the financial year to purposefully gather data and to share initiated government programmes pertaining to all citizens of South Africa.



District communicators forum holds an engagement encouraging strong relations amongst government.



The Champion of the Harry Gwala District Developmental Model Professor Blade Nzimande known as Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation. Took a visit in the Harry Gwala District Community to Amakhuze High School then later went to visit Dlangani High School. The minister was joined by Dr Nkosazane Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality's Deputy Mayor Cllr. Kholeka Hadebe and other respective officials honored the day.

BLADE NZIMANDE VISITS THE DISTRICT

THE Champion of the Harry Gwala District's Development Model, Professor Blade Nzimande, who is also the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation recently rolled out his Outreach Campaign in Bulwer. The Minister began his visit at Amakhuze High School and then proceeded to Dlangani High School. This visit was a follow up to the Back-to-School Campaign

undertaken earlier in the year. During the Outreach Campaign, the Minister promoted and encouraged interest in science amongst the learners from the identified schools, particularly in careers related to science. The Minister was accompanied by Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality Deputy Mayor Cllr Kholeka Hadebe along with other councillors and stakeholders.



The Minister encouraged young people to invest in the science field as it remains the leading valuable skill worldwide. The Outreach was a success as young people continue to learn and engage in such platforms, where leaders educate and disperse resourceful information to the community at large.

IEC DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME FOCUS WEEK LAUNCH

THE Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa has recently launched Democracy Programme Focus Week at Daniel Mzamo Special School in the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality under the Harry Gwala District.

The programme was conducted in partnership with the Department of Education in order to persuade the inclusion of democracy education in the schools' curriculum.

The Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo honoured the invitation and during his remarks he shared with pride to young people that: "it is important to exercise your right to vote to ensure that you are living in a world where our democratic fighters that stood and fought for liberation against all odds back in the days where education was a far-fetched idea, made sure you utilize all resources in your learning facilities for a better future," said Mayor Nxumalo.

The day's agenda was aimed at deepening the understanding of electoral democracy and the importance of youth participation in election processes as well as to advocate for the infusion civic and democracy education into the schools' curriculum. The purpose of the day was educating and raising awareness amongst young people on voter education and registration with a special focus on youth and schools.

The 14 schools that participated in the programme included:

- Daniel Mzamo Special School
- Buthathubunye High School
- Impiyamandla High School
- Kwathathani High School
- Hlokozi High School
- Lusibalukhulu High School
- Thubalemfundo High School
- Impunga High School
- Ixopo Village Intermediate School 1
- Mariathal Combined School
- Little Flower Combined School
- Ixopo High School
- Ndela High School
- Luswazi High School



The Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo shared heart-warming moment where he highlighted the South African history relaying the struggles and democracy of the country. He later urged the importance of participating and being an active citizen.



The Independent Electorate Commission (IEC) of South Africa joined by Department of Education launched the Schools Democracy Programme Focus Week at Daniel Mzamo Special School. Under UBuhlebezwe Local Municipality which is part of Harry Gwala District. The launch educates young people and the community about democracy and to exercise voting right.

RISK STRATEGIC WORKSHOP: THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT RISK MANAGEMENT UNIT STRATEGIC RISK ASSESSMENT



The Harry Gwala District Municipality's risk management unit conducted a thorough risk assessment session with the District managers and Exco Members. The session is particularly focused on identifying hazardous factors that may affect the functioning of the municipality. The District leadership such as Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo, The deputy Mayor Cllr. Nosisa Jojozi, the speaker Cllr Sibongiseni Mdunge and other council members who are part of the District Executive Committee were all part of this deep constructive engagement. Where resourceful information is shared across all departments in the municipality. The engagement instils security, accountability and responsibility in all levels of management and keeps all functions proactive and a step ahead.

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality's risk management unit recently conducted a Strategic Risk Assessment Session for District managers, and Exco members. The session held at the Premier Resort, Sani Pass in Underberg discussed and reviewed risks that the District may be faced with in order to ensure that mitigating measures are also resolved.

In attendance was the District Mayor Cllr. Z.D Nxumalo, Deputy Mayor Cllr. N.T Jojozi, Speaker Cllr.

S. Mdunge, and other Councillors who form part of the District's Executive Committee (Exco). The Municipal Manager Mr. G.M Sineke and management also attended. Some of the issues discussed included strategic risk assessment overview, identification of strategic risk assessment. Another pivotal reason for the session was to also ensure risk was to ensure that the risks do not hinder the District from achieving its strategic goals, potentially impacting service delivery.

KZN MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HONOURABLE MBALI SHINGA HANDS OVER CERTIFICATES TO (71) YOUTH WITHIN THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT

Empowering Youths Through Skills Development Programmes



On the 6th of March the Harry Gwala District celebrated with 71 youth graduates who officially completed the skill development programme, 71 certificate were handed over in congratulatory to this achievement. Partnering Government entities namely the KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Social development and Mbali Shinga following Department of Agriculture and rural development. The MEC of Social development Mbali Shinga honored the ceremony and congratulated the young people for achieving and gaining a new skill set she was joined by the Harry Gwala District Deputy Mayor Cllr Nosisa Jojozi. Cllr Nosisa Jojozi shared words of gratitude and also encouraging the youth to keep thriving.

THE Soweto Hall in Ixopo was a hive of jubilation recently when the Honourable MEC for Social Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Mbali Shinga, handed over certificates to 71 youths who completed the skills development programme in the Harry Gwala District.

This programme was undertaken in a collaborative effort between the Harry Gwala District, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and funded NPOs, and was aimed to equip the youth with skills that would enhance their employability.

In attendance were Deputy Mayor of the District Cllr Nosisa Jojozi, District Speaker Cllr Sibongiseni Mdunge, and the Honourable Mayor of the Ubuhlebezwe Municipality Cllr E. B. Ngubo. Deputy Mayor Cllr Nosisa

Jojozi commended the District's progress, acknowledging the positive impact that Social Development has had through this initiative.

"Charity begins at home, and it's heartwarming to see our District thriving," said the Speaker. MEC Mbali Shinga congratulated the graduates, emphasizing the significance of skill development and training as a lifelong commitment. "These programmes empower the youth to bring hope and positive change to their communities," she said.

The skills Development Programme aligns with the District Development Model Plan, focusing on upskilling, particularly the youth from underprivileged backgrounds, with various much needed skills. This initiative demonstrated the District's commitment to youth empowerment and development, providing a brighter future for the next generation.

PREMIER'S CRIME PREVENTION IMBIZO HELD IN UMZIMKHULU UNDER THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



Crime remains a concerning negative factor to communities at large in the entire country. Under the Harry Gwala District the Umzimkhulu Local Municipality held a deep heartfelt engagement with the community. Present the premier of KwaZulu-Natal Thamsanqa Ntuli with his KZN Provincial Counterpart, working together with the Harry Gwala District Municipality presented by the Mayor of the district Cllr Zamo Nxumalo alongside with the Mayor of Umzimkhulu Local Municipalities Cllr Jabu Msiya. The initiative was focused mainly on views, opinions and recommendations in fighting crime in Umzimkhulu. Crime prevention programmes ideally are focused on creating conditions in which the opportunities and motivation for crime will be reduced.

FIGHTING all sorts of criminal activities one step at a time, was the message advanced at the Premier's Crime Prevention Imbizo held recently at the Esayidi TVET College under the uMzimkhulu.

The Imbizo, led by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, the Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli in partnership with the Harry Gwala District Municipality, led by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr ZD Nxumalo, provided an important platform for communities of the local municipality and those who travelled from other sister municipalities within the region to air their challenges in relation to crime escalations in their region directly to the Premier.

The aim of the Imbizo was to engage the community and hear their views, opinions and recommendations in fighting crime in UMzimkhulu as the area has been

detected as a community that is faced with an increasing number of reported cases of stock theft, business robbery, house breakings, gruesome Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo in his



welcoming remarks commended the Premier for his visit and urged all community members to play a role in fighting crime, "together we can build harmony within our communities and it takes everyone to play a role and responsibility in building healthy and safe environment".

Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo created a platform for the Harry Gwala District Community joined by all respective Local Municipalities in the district. The intention was to fight crime at all possible angles. As Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo shared and acknowledged the premier Thamsanqa Ntuli for honoring the engagement in creating an awareness of fighting crime.



Minister “connects” deep rural school to digital world



The Harry Gwala District was honored to have minister Solly Malatsi from Department of Communication and digital technologies. He kept his promise that he made last year, he identified a skill set that needs to be imprinted in Pholela Special School for learners to be exposed in the digital era as we in the technology age.



The Harry Gwala District Municipality Deputy Mayor Cllr Nosisa Jojozi made an official introduction of the Minister with excitement at the implementation of this service to the school.



Cyberlabs are facilities built empower learners and to expose them to information and skill that are out there.

Poor signal or network problems will soon be a thing of the past in the rural Pholela Special School in the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality as the Minister of the Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, Mr. Solly Malatsi, kept his promise to address the signal challenges and network connections at the school.

The Minister made his promise in September last year after the school reported that it is confronted with a plethora of challenges at the school regarding connecting to the internet due to lack of sustainable signal.

The internet and network hardships that confronted the learners led to an uncondusive teaching and learning experience at the school.

It is a known fact that the world is drastically shifting from the normal sharing of information and knowledge, with the digital world taking up the space, all that requires internet connectivity and network.

Keeping his promise, the Minister delivered internet gadgets and launched a Cyber Lab with fast internet signal.

The Harry Gwala District Municipality Deputy Mayor, Councillor, Nosisa Jojozi made an official

introduction of the Minister with excitement at the implementation of this service to the school.

The Deputy Mayor also thanked SITA for the donation of the CyberLab.

She further highlighted that the Minister kept his promise in less than 12 months.

She said they were inspired by the fact that the political bigwigs prioritize rural areas that are under severe challenge of internet connection during a 4th industrial revolution characterized by the integration of advanced technologies that present opportunities to youth and societal transformation.

Malatsi said he was pleased to come back to the school to launch the lab.

“We were here last year and now we come back to launch this very much needed cyber lab which will also address the learners’ special needs. We want them to have skills and also be able to sustain their lives, we want them to be specialists in IT and related courses,” said Minister Malatsi. As part of this launch the Minister together with Deputy Mayors planted trees in the school before the launch.



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY HOSTS ITS FIRST INTERDEPARTMENTAL GAMES

THE Harry Gwala District Municipality's held its inaugural Interdepartmental Games at the Ixopo's Turf grounds recently, fostering teamwork, unity, and camaraderie among employees.

The event which was a huge success, was spearheaded by the Health and Safety unit under Corporate Services Department, by bringing together various departmental units for a fun-filled day of friendly competition. The games featured a range of sport codes, including volleyball, netball, soccer, and indigenous games.

The Finance Department took top honours, sweeping all three trophies in volleyball, netball, and the overall indigenous games. This initiative promoted

social cohesion and boosted staff morale, reflecting the municipality's commitment to creating a positive and inclusive work environment.

The municipality's efforts to foster a positive work environment are evident in their various initiatives and events that the municipality has successfully hosted over the years. The success of the Interdepartmental Games was a testament to the municipality's commitment to its employees' well-being and development.

As a token of appreciation, the Harry Gwala Municipality extended its gratitude to all employees who participated in making the day a resounding success, as well as to the management team for their support.



On the 26th of February 2025 the interdepartmental games were a massive success fostering teamwork and unity. The Games were a testament to the municipality's commitment to its employees wellbeing and development.



Happy employees are healthier, they are always productive and ready to attend to tasks given. The municipality took the initiative to focus on the wellbeing of the employees and to offer opportunities where one could relax and reboot.



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