

EZOTHUKELA NEWS

UThukela District Municipality Online Newsletter

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UThukela District Agency hosts business seminar

UThukela District Municipality in partnership with the UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) hosted business sessions with the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) targeting the Youth and Women in business, primarily in agriculture and agro-processing sector. The event was held at Dongala Hotel in Ladysmith to support the development of small businesses in the area. The meeting was held to give key stakeholders the platform to share knowledge and experiences in order to sharpen the process of developing the economy.

The Deputy Minister Sifiso Buthelezi from Agriculture section, Deputy Minister Cassel Mathale from Small Business Development, Deputy Minister Madala Masuku from Economic Development, Minister of Arts and Culture Nathi Mthethwa, Alfred Duma Mayor Cllr MV Madlala, UThukela District Deputy Mayor Cllr NW Sibiya, Speaker Cllr PG Strydom and DCP Mazibuko CEO of UEDA joined hands to support youth and women owned enterprises.

This initiative aims to assist the youth and women in business to foster economic involvement in the area through entrepreneurship. The main objective of the visit was to engage the business operators, to hear what challenges they encounter in running their businesses, and to educate them about business opportunities possible available and expose them to government support services available to enable them to thrive in business.

The presence of the various stakeholders from other government departments and support agencies gave the aspirant entrepreneurs the opportunity to consult and engage the business related issues on the spot including some of the administrative challenges they might have been battling with.

Both in the one-on-one with the support agencies, and the dialogue facilitated by Deputy Ministers, the small business operators raised a number of issues among them the need for skills training in running their businesses. They also had challenges with registering their businesses on government's Central Database, accessing funding and tax compliance processes amongst other issues.

"This initiative aims to assist the youth and women in business to foster economic involvement in the area through entrepreneurship".

- CEO DCP Mazibuko

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L: UThukela District Agency CEO DCP Mazibuko addressing the audience R: Dignitaries in attendance

Thuma Mina campaign aims to render services

All roads led to Drongvaal where the follow up meetings to give feedback on issues raised in the previous meeting with the community was held on February 06. Uthukela District Mayor Cllr AS Mazibuko, Alfred Duma Deputy Mayor Cllr T Hadebe, Ward Cllr Nxumalo together with the team of officials went to the area to respond to these issues.

In her remarks the Deputy Mayor Cllr T Hadebe mentioned the fact that today they were able to get the Education department and KES which supplies solar panels in this area. She assured the community that the community hall will be refurbished. On the issue of job creation the Deputy Mayor mentioned that it has been established that there are three beneficiaries in the area.

KES said they work in conjunction with the municipality and Energy dept and supplies solar power. People who use their services pay for that monthly. Transport dept came to do road assessment after the previous meeting but couldn't find no one. Transport and the local municipality will work together to do road construction.

Ward Cllr explained how the municipality job creation program works. Responding to Kwakali school issue, Education said every child has a right to learn. They said the decision to close the school was largely due to low learner enrolment. Learners were sent to other schools and learner transport is provided.

The Mayor tackled the issues of water and sanitation. He said the program to deliver sanitation will commence after assessment of households has been done. He then introduced Nhloso to build sanitation facilities here starting with assessment on Friday, February 08.

Cllr Mazibuko then told the audience that the springs found here are not producing enough water, according to assessment conducted. The team will now look at exploring ground water. He said the area will have to make do with the water tanker and Jojo tanks in the meantime. He mentioned that due to poor revenue collection Uthukela District has no money.

Imbizo to address service delivery backlog

The Thuma Mina campaign visited Maswazini under Okhahlamba local municipality. Uthukela District Deputy Mayor Cllr NW Sibiya accompanied by Okhahlamba Speaker Cllr Zulu, a team of technicians and officials went to address this community about services rendered by district municipality as part of Izimbizo.

Outlining the purpose of the visit the Deputy Mayor Cllr Sibiya mentioned that as councillors they are deployed in various areas to carry out certain functions. She said it was important to visit the area to discuss about the issue of water provision. The Deputy Mayor mentioned that the team was here to actually listen to the issues that concern the community.



Mayor Cllr AS Mazibuko with ADM Councillors

She said the municipality is aware that this area relies on springs and boreholes to get water supply. There were ten broken boreholes and four have already been fixed. Deputy Mayor urged the community to be the eyes and ears of the municipality as to what is going on in their area. Cllr Sibiya reported on progress made so far with regards to drilling of more boreholes. basis", concluded Deputy Mayor Cllr Sibiya.

KwaMhloshana, Diphini, Hoffentaal, KwaNkosana, KwaMthandazi and Somtsewu areas will all benefit from the water project as they are part of Ward 4. "As the district municipality we are always prepared to engage with the community on an on-going basis", concluded Deputy Mayor Sibiya.

Cllr Zulu committed to work with the community in order to address their concerns. He then cautioned them against vandalising things that are utilised by the community.



Deputy Mayor Cllr Sibiya speaking to community



Community members at the meeting

Handing over of springs protection contractor

UThukela District Speaker Cllr PG Strydom, team of officials and ward committee members have on Wednesday March 27 visited Kwasomtsewu area in Ward 4 of Okhahlamba Local Municipality to introduce the appointed spring protections service provider.

When addressing the community Cllr Strydom introduced Sydwell Construction who will be dealing with spring protection project and six stand pipes which will supply water to the community of emaSwazini. She said this project will take up to one month to complete and it will also create about 15 temporal job opportunities.

Members of the community were concerned about households that do not have sanitation facilities. On her remarks the Speaker promised that the issue of infield toilets will be attended to as soon as the exact number of toilets has been provided by the ward Cllr and the funds are available. She also urged those who will be employed to work hard in order for a project to be a success.

UThukela attends to community needs

As a means to address community issues and grievances following recent community unrest Uthukela District Mayor Cllr AS Mazibuko, Speaker Cllr PG Strydom, Inkosi Langalibalele Ward Cllr Mchunu accompanied by a team from Water, Sanitation and Technical Services and other officials visited Chieveley area on February 08.

Talking to the community the Mayor Cllr Mazibuko gave feedback on progress made so far with regards to service delivery in the area. Of concern was the pump engine which, for some reasons, was taken out by the service provider leaving the community without water. The engine will be re-installed once the assessment of the place has been done.

Uthukela District will be in contact with Ashraf in relation to the issue of utilizing the existing production borehole in the area and look at the option to put a more bigger engine so as to supply water to the whole community. The community raised their frustration with the way drivers of water tankers conduct themselves.

They also raised concerns about boreholes which are hard to operate and are not serviced. The Mayor assured the community that he will send a team of technicians to take care of the matter. The team will also do the assessment to see if the area can be supplied with piped water.

Initial reports state that the source from the Cluston farm is not reliable to supply water to the whole community. The team will be given at least two weeks to do feasibility study on water source. In the meantime water tanker will be sent to service the area.

From the first community engagement meeting our second stop was at Cornfields where the Mayor and his team addressed the community on issues of development, in particular, with regards to water provision.

The Mayor Cllr Mazibuko then gave background of our visit and issues affecting this community. According to the Mayor this area has never had a proper way of supplying water. The research has been conducted to determine how this area could be assisted to get reliable water supply.

He mentioned that some areas have been provided with water infrastructure and are benefiting from that whilst others have it but no water coming out as yet. The Mayor said there are other areas with no infrastructure at all. But nevertheless Uthukela District Municipality is doing all it can to provide people with potable water.

According to the Mayor the Master Plan to undertake water project has been completed. The pump engine which was taken out by the service provider compromised the service delivery in the area in terms of reliable water provision. It was also clarified that the boreholes that were reportedly broken four of them were fixed. The technicians will also conduct site inspection on water sources, springs and other things.



UThukela Speaker Cllr PG Strydom

Stakeholders working together to save water

The Departments of Water and Sanitation, KZN Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in partnership with the Land Care South Africa, Agriculture and Rural Development, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Uthukela District Municipality hosted an annual National Water Week celebration at Phumelelani Primary School under Inkosi Langalibalele local Municipality on Friday, March 08.

More than 120 learners participated in the celebration. South Africa will officially celebrate the National Water Week from March 18 to 24. The theme is, "Leaving no one behind, Water for all".

The National Water Week is an awareness week campaign that serves as a tool to re-iterate the value of water, the need for sustainable management of this scarce resource and the role water plays in eradicating poverty and under-development in South Africa. The campaign seeks to continue building the spirit of water conservation and demand management and protection of water resources within South African community.

Gugu Mbhense, from the Uthukela District Municipality, said events like these are important as they enable learners to spread the message on saving water. "The platform is also utilised to educate the learners in order for them to gain knowledge and implement it in their respective communities," she concluded.

Leadership engage with the communities on service delivery challenges

The Thuma Mina campaign took off and headed to KwaVala, Phasiwe and Wembezi areas under Inkosi Langalibalele municipality on Wednesday March 20 to address service delivery challenges. UThukela District Speaker Cllr PG Strydom led the team comprising the Ward Cllr Mgaga and officials who went to KwaVala to tackle specifically the issues of water and sanitation. The Speaker informed the community the Uthukela District has made an assessment with regards to water provision in the area.

By midday the Thuma Mina team headed to Phasiwe area to continue with its community engagement meetings. This time the team was led by Uthukela Chief Whip Cllr S Dlungwane, Ward Cllr S Mdakane, traditional leadership and officials who went there to tackle water issues affecting this community. Cllr Dlungwane said he was here to engage with the community on issues relating to water, sanitation, disaster management and economic development.

Our last Thuma Mina activity of the day was held in Wembezi Township later in the afternoon. The team which was led by Uthukela Chief Whip Cllr S Dlungwane, Ward Cllr B Dladla and officials went there to introduce the service providers to construct water project. The contractors will be upgrading the bulk water rising main from George Cross right up to the Wembezi and Ntabamhlophe areas.

The contractors introduced was SBT & Yaluza JV. The duration of the project is 36 months funded by WSIG. Over R77 million have been injected into the project and is expected to take up to 36 months to complete. More than 20 job opportunities are expected to be created per phase. According to the Chief Whip the project will run in phases till its completion. He said poor revenue collection negatively affects proper service delivery.



50% Settlements Incentive 2018/19

Uthukela District Council grants all customers with arrears debts (from 30 days) a 50% settlement. The incentive drive runs for a fixed period. From 03 January 2019 to June 2019. The existing one-third incentive will be on hold as from 03 January 2019 until 30 June 2019 as these two never run concurrently. Our offices are at full service:

1. Ladysmith, 36 Lyell Street
2. Estcourt, 127 Albert Street
3. Colenco, 56 Sir George Street
4. Bergville, 10 Broadway Street

This covers all customer categories as covered in our tariff structure. All customers benefit once during this period to avoid exploitation. This is your chance to clear your record, take advantage now!

UThukela District Municipality brings you news

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