

EZOTHUKELA NEWS

UThukela District Municipality Online Newsletter

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President Ramaphosa promotes reconciliation

December 16 marks Reconciliation Day in South Africa where all citizens are encouraged to reach out to one another as the country continues to build a united, non-racial and non-sexist nation. The 2019 Reconciliation Day commemoration took place at Bergville Municipal Sports Complex in OKhahlamba local municipality.

It was commemorated under the theme: "The Year of Indigenous Languages: Supporting National Reconciliation Through the Promotion, Development and Preservation of Indigenous Languages".

In his opening remarks Minister of Arts and Culture Nathi Mthethwa said that this day was declared by the United Nations to preserve indigenous languages. The minister mentioned that our multilingual diversity makes us a unique society. However, he said that the issue of land in the area was still a bone of contention between the locals and those who possesses land

Premier Sihle Zikalala said this was a moment to reflect on progress made so far to build a non-racial and prosperous nation. "It cannot be that farmworkers are still subjected to appalling working and living conditions. Likewise water provision must be distributed to all, " said the Premier. He commended Okhahlamba for attaining clean audits for five consecutive years.



Jubilant audience who attended the event

since received good rainfall in recent times. He reminded audience that this day was declared by the Afrikaners as the Day of Vow after they defeated amaZulu in 1838.

"It was also the day when uMkhonto Wesizwe was formed in 1961. After the democratic dispensation government renamed it Reconciliation Day. It is important to recall how indigenous people were forced off their land by colonial rulers," said Ramaphosa. The President emphasised that reconciliation is about healing the wounds of the past by ensuring that there is peace and harmony among various groups of people.

President Ramaphosa urged people to work together to resolve the issue of land dispute between landowners and the dispossessed. He said he is going to come back to launch the District Development Model in order to better understand the issues of the community. He also said that reconciliation means we must end inequality in all its forms.



Minister Mthethwa, President Ramaphosa, Premier Zikalala and District Mayor Mazibuko

Uthukela District Mayor Cllr AS Mazibuko gave a vote of thanks, saying they are proud of Okhahlamba for what they have achieved. In advancing indigenous languages in our nation, we can give social and political recognition to disadvantaged language groups as it helps to keep our individual cultures alive and binds us to our history.



President Ramaphosa addresses the audience

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Acting Premier launches 16 Days of Activism campaign

Acting Premier Nomsa Dube-Ncube accompanied by Uthukela District leadership launched the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children as well as Spend Wisely campaign at Injisuthi under Inkosi Langalibalele municipality. The campaign seeks to raise awareness of the plight of many women and children who suffer from violence as a regular occurrence. On the other hand the spend wisely campaign aims to educate consumers to use their hard-earned cash in a more beneficial way, particularly during December time.



The event started with a march from Gorton to Injisuthi. The campaign itself starts on the 25th November, which is the International Day for no violence against women and children, and ends on the 10th of December. Violence against women and children has escalated

tremendously in our country triggering many social media campaigns in the process.

Government hopes to reduce and ultimately end the scourge of violence against women and children through this campaign. The objectives of the 16 days of activism on No Violence Against Women and Children programme are to:

- encourage community involvement in initiatives to combat crimes against women and children.
- communicate governments substantive programmes and priority actions to deal with the challenges of women and child abuse.
- create awareness about gender based violence and child directed abuse at grass roots level by bringing the 16 Days of Activism campaign closer to the people.

The theme for 2019 year's campaign was "Enough is Enough – 356 days to Gender-Based violence and Femicide (GBVF)". During the 16 days period, men are encouraged and mobilised to sign a Pledge Against Gender-Based Violence as a form of commitment to stop and end GBVF.

Uthukela engages communities on development

The Deputy Mayor Cllr NW Mchunu of Uthukela District Municipality, Ward Cllr Zikalala, Induna Dladla and administrative team held a community engagement meeting at Sahlumbe ward 30 under Alfred Duma local municipality to discuss issues of service delivery and development.



These meetings are aimed at providing solution on the issues of water challenges in the area. There was a concern from the community about water shortages and that there is no water coming out from their taps.

Responding to these issues the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mchunu promised the community that she will visit the scheme to find the root cause of the problem. She emphasised that Uthukela District has to take care of 74 wards across the district.

By midday the Uthukela Environmental Health team led by Chairperson for Water, Sanitation and Technical Services Cllr S Dlungwane made an unannounced blitz to various shops around Ekuvukeni area checking whether the products in the shelves haven't reached the expiry date.



The products that were found to have expired were taken off the shelves and the owners advised to call the suppliers to come and take them away. On some of the products the expiry dates were found to have been altered with.

About four shop owners were then issued with a R2500 fine each on spot for transgression, using the area where food is handled for sleeping purposes.

In the afternoon the team also visited the Sanitation project, Rising Main and Oliphantskop Dam to continue with the inspection and checking the water levels on the dam. The team was satisfied with what they have seen on the ground. #Khawuleza

Stakeholders stand together against HIV epidemic

As December 1 is commemorated as World AIDS Day every year, this gives people the opportunity to join the fight against HIV. World AIDS Day is celebrated every year all over the world. The main motto behind commemorating the day is to raise public awareness about AIDS. Uthukela District Municipality in partnership with the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Health, Alfred Duma, Al Imdaad and a variety of stakeholders hosted such event in Bhande Sportsfield under Alfred Duma municipality.



Leadership and stakeholders leading the march

The theme for World AIDS Day 2019 was "Communities make the difference". District Mayor Cllr AS Mazibuko, Speaker Cllr PG Strydom, local Mayor Cllr MV Madlala, Deputy Mayor Cllr T Hadebe, Inkosi Sithole and stakeholders graced the event. The day started with a march from nearby school to the venue with an aim to raise awareness.

In his welcome address Mayor Madlala outlined the purpose of the event and the theme for this year's campaign. Social partners Al Imdaad Foundation thanked the Operation Sukuma Sakhe for providing the platform to engage with the community. They donated about 10 Jojo tanks to the community.



The District AIDS Council reported on many challenges faced by the communities in the district which include sexual assault and so forth. They have launched the men's clinic in Ladysmith. A call was made to stop discrimination against people who are HIV infected. Keynote address was delivered by Mayor Mazibuko on behalf of the MEC for EDTEA. He said every one is aware of HIV epidemic but have a different approach. He encouraged everybody to get tested so that they know their status.

"We encourage the public to utilise services rendered at the War Rooms so that you get assisted. Things are different today because government has a wonderful programme in place with regards to the fight against HIV epidemic", said the Mayor. He encouraged all to practice

safe sex by using condoms all the time. The Mayor reiterated that it was impossible to win the fight against AIDS without involving social partners. He also encouraged all men to undergo circumcision.

Communities contribute to the AIDS response in many different ways. Their leadership and advocacy ensure that the response remains relevant and grounded, keeping people at the centre and leaving no one behind. Communities include peer educators, networks of people living with or affected by HIV, such as gay men and other men who have sexual relationship with men, people who inject drugs and sex workers, women and young people, counsellors, community health workers, door-to-door service providers, civil society organizations and grass-roots activists. The event ended with the candles light in memory of those who have passed on.



Community members who attended the event

MEC launches Operations Khawuleza and donates yellow plants

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Nomusa Dube-Ncube accompanied by Uthukela District Mayor Cllr AS Mazibuko, Deputy Mayor Cllr NW Mchunu, Okhahlamba Mayor Cllr MG Ndlangisa, Alfred Duma Mayor Cllr MV Madlala, Inkosi Langalibalele Mayor Cllr J Mbele and Inkosi Sithole started the day's activities with a road inspection at the Bergville municipal interchange where the road worthiness of vehicles along with permits were inspected. The focus was on Transport and Productivity Month which is aimed at ensuring safety and accountability for services provided by the Provincial government.

Then the next activity of the day was a Joint-Exco meeting held at Okhahlamba Sport Complex emanated from the municipal assessment report that was compiled by the Department. The EXCO meeting was to also focus on activities of Operation Khawuleza, which was launched at Dukuza Sport Ground in Bergville, under Okhahlamba Local Municipality.

Mayor Mazibuko welcomed the community of Dukuza to the event. Inkosi Sithole pleaded with the community to take care of the machinery that was given to them. In her keynote address MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube communicated that the Provincial Government was handing over the R13 million worth of plant equipment in order to assist municipalities under uThukela District to fast-track service delivery.

These yellow metal machinery will assist in the battle to attend to service delivery challenges. The machines include; 2x TLBs, 2x Water Tankers, Excavator, 2x Walk Behind Rollers, Graders, Waste Compactor and 2X Honey Suckers. #OperationKhawulezaKZN.



MEC for EDTEA Dube-Ncube with Uthukela District leadership cutting the ribbon during the event launch

UThukela District Mayoral Slot

As a means of keeping the community abreast with the information regarding programmes that are in the pipeline as well as those undertaken by uThukela District Municipality, media play a pivotal role in terms of information cascading.

We utilize the services of our local community radio station Nqubeko FM to reach our target audience. The programme itself is called **uThukela Nezalo**, is run once on the last Thursday of the month between 18:00 and 19:00. Catch us live on Nqubeko FM 100.5 for the latest news, views and interviews!



UThukela team inspects food premises then engages communities

UThukela District Deputy Mayor Cllr NW Mchunu accompanied by Speaker Cllr PG Strydom and the team from Environment Health recently made an unannounced visit to two shops in Illing Road, Ladysmith. The purpose was to check whether the products in the shelves are still safe for human consumption.

It was therefore found that some of the products have expired and were removed from the shelves. The owners were advised to call the suppliers to come and take them away. It is common practise that in most shops the expiry date on the products is altered with. One shop owner was then issued with a R2500 fine for generally poor housekeeping.

After that the team proceeded to Crimin in Ward 24 where a community engagement meeting was held. They were joined by ward Cllr Nxumalo, Cllr Mlotshwa, ward Secretary Mr Shabalala and Cllr Zikalala. Such meetings aim to provide solution on the issues of water shortages in the area.

There was a concern from the communities about water shortages and sanitation provision. Responding to these issues Cllr Strydom informed them that as Uthukela District Municipality they have made an assessment with regards to water provision in the area. And that water project phase one is complete and they will start phase two soon as they are still sorting out some logistics.

The Speaker said that there is an intervention to extend the pipeline to supply water and is expected to start soon. The community was pleased with the progress made by the District. #Khawuleza



Speaker Cllr PG Strydom during the meeting

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