

## UTHUKELA LAUNCHES OPERATION VALA VULA



Municipal Manager Mr Jili and his team hard at work

**T**he UThukela District Municipality, under the tutelage of Municipal Manager, Mr LS Jili, has taken a decisive action by cutting off water supply connections to large users across the district. Collectively, these users owe over R84 million in municipal services. This campaign is part of UThukela District Municipality's proactive credit control which was rolled out effectively on November 7.



With the municipality facing a mounting and unsustainable debt, the Operation Vala Vula (disconnect and reconnect) campaign aims to address the issue head-on. Through this exercise, the municipality is targeting major residential estates, investment firms, hospitals, car dealerships, schools and government departments among others, who contribute to the municipality's endless list of defaulters.

This exercise was conducted under the banner called Operation Vala Vula. The Municipal Manager Mr Jili emphasized that the municipality is acting tough against perpetual defaulters. He said these people are running away from their responsibility of paying what is due. He was, however, worried that some of the defaulters would not let them gain access to their property and warned against such practices.

"This exercise is part of our strategy to enhance our revenue collection in all areas including sector departments. We have started with those who owe us large amounts of money and we succeeded in doing disconnections".

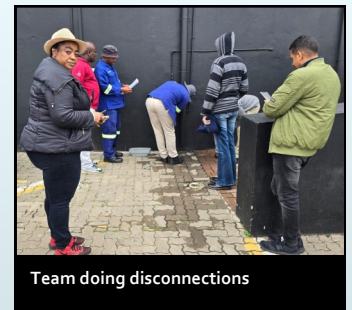
"Although the teams encountered some problems in some areas where we were denied access to the property because we have our meters in those properties but we will resolve these issues", said Mr Jili

He went further to say that they were hoping that they will be

able to collect what is due to the municipality. Various teams were deployed to Ladysmith, Estcourt, Winterton, Weenen and Bergville. The Municipal Manager appreciated the efforts and commitments of the teams working in different areas.

No one will be reconnected without either payment arrangement or having paid the municipality in full.

All queries and analytical/technical questions must be referred to our Revenue Manager, Mr Sphamandla Dlamini. The WhatsApp number 060 527 1551 is available for all consumer to use for immediate responses and guidance or email: [SDlamini@uthukela.gov.za](mailto:SDlamini@uthukela.gov.za)



Team doing disconnections

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## UThukela organize a send-off for SALGA Games 2024 participants

**H**is Worship the Mayor Inkosi NB Shabalala together with the Mayor of Inkosi Langalibalele Mayor Cllr M Myeza, District Speaker Cllr TY Nqubuka and team of Councillors held a short send-off for the uThukela



Mayor Shabalala addressing the audience

la District Municipality SALGA KZN DSAC Team. The event was convened at Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality's fore ground.

The ceremony marked the team's upcoming participation in this year's SALGA Games, which will take place in Durban from 5 to 8 December 2024. The UThukela team will showcase their talents by competing in five out of the 16 available sports codes.

The District Mayor conveyed his message of support and words of encouragement to the team and thanked them for working hard to represent the district. He also en-

couraged the group to give their best as they are already victors, the district is very proud of.

The Mayor then reassured the team that they are fully behind them. "We will also accompany you as Councillors to give you all the support you need." His words were a rallying call for the team to strive for excellence and bring pride back to the district.

With such enthusiastic backing from their leaders the team is confident to make a strong impression at the Salga Games. The leadership of both municipalities wished them well. May the team represent us well and bring back the medals.

### UThukela warns the public to be vigilant of job scams

**J**ob scams continue to haunt the municipality unabated. The latest scam is the one whereby a scammer has designed a fake posts advertisement with a variety of jobs opportunities using our name.

Two ladies came to UThukela District Offices at the Standard Bank building looking for “Mr Nhlapho” who allegedly scammed one lady. According to these ladies, they have seen the job advertisement on Facebook page in the Job Section with contact details. The scammer pretends to be an employee of the UThukela District Municipality employed in the HR department. The lady said she had applied for a Bookkeeper position that she saw, and sent her CV via WhatsApp as per the advertisement’s instructions. She was informed that the position she applied for was a permanent post, and all she needed to do was to offer a “cold drink” (bribery).

The impersonator requested that an amount of R500 must be immediately sent via CashSend

to secure the position. This was because she was told there was going to be District Managers around, so it won’t be easy to take the “cold drink”, and she did exactly so. Thereafter, she was told to wait for him at UThukela District offices to be placed in her position. The ladies said they waited forever for the man to come until they saw the Municipal Manager Mr LS Jili coming in, thinking that he was the man they were waiting for. .

According to the ladies, a TrueCaller reveals the real name of the user when they call. The MM has warned the public not to respond to any job advertisements they see without proper verification. “As the Uthukela District Municipality, we warn all potential job seekers to guard against such criminal activities, and remain vigilant at all material times”, warns Mr Jili. Members of the public should know that this is a scam when:

-they see job advertisements on Facebook platforms without the logo and contact details of the municipality. The municipality does not advertise via Facebook. We advertise posts through conventional media platforms and our HR department follow all the recruitment processes;

-a potential victim is required to make payment fee in advance. The municipality does not request interview candidates or job seekers to pay any monies to any individual in any way whatsoever in exchange for job placement, and

-you are invited to come and collect the uniform without going through an interview process. There’s no such thing, due processes are followed at all times.

We urge the public to be vigilant and not accept any job offer they did not apply for or never conducted any interview for.



### Youth Office rolls out empowerment fund drive

**T**he uThukela district Municipality’s Youth Development Unit (YDU) has embarked on an intensive application drive for the KZN Youth Empowerment Fund administered by the Office m of the Premier. This comes after they open window for the applications to Youth owned businesses from 01 October to 01 November 2024 initially.

The programme entailed providing Youth Fund Application forms, explaining how to fill the form, outlining the attachment documents to accompany the form, providing various advice on issues of compliance, responding to questions and developing list for those who require business management training. During this programme, the Unit made physical contacts with about 347 young people.

In remedying part of the outcomes of the programme, the Unit will be approaching our various stakeholders who are competent in certain fields that are needed to service the youth. The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) do assist in providing Business Management Training as well as Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA).

These government entities also help with business registration and development, drafting of business plans etc. The unit plans on holding business symposium around the district which will involved various stakeholders in order to help young people with business interests.



Some of the people who attended the event

However, this was extended to close on 29 November 2024. The programme was approved by the office of the Municipal Manager, Mr LS Jili, spanned over nine consecutive days, accommodating various sections of the district. It began at Inkosi Langalibalele, then proceeded to Okhahlamba and ended in Alfred Duma municipalities.

It is part of the YDU’s culture to ensure that all locals benefit from the districts’ programmes. The Youth Office expressed its of gratitude to the positive response they received from the Youth who were desperate to hear about the process of applying for the fund. The office was also pleased about the engagements they had with young people in different areas of the district.

Part of the critical challenges unraveled during this process was that within our district, there is still a few number of businesses owned by the Youth. There’s also a lack of knowledge on how to register a business. Some businesses do not know how to file for tax returns from CIPC which leads to business deregistration, non-compliance with SARS.

General lack of business management knowledge, basic training and the existing businesses do not have business plans inter-alia. Over and above, there are businesses who do comply with the necessary requirements hence they will submit their application. YDU is committed in assisting young people in the district in anyway possible.



Youth Manager Mr Xulu engaging with young people during the event



**FESTIVE SEASON ROAD SAFETY 2024 CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF**

The KwaZulu Natal Economic Regulatory Authority (KZNERA) in conjunction with key stakeholders which included the UThukela District Municipality, Alfred Duma Municipality, the South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Transport, Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) and a variety of other agencies, have today conducted the festive season road safety campaign. The event was organised at the SANRAL Bergville Toll Plaza, East Bound route.

The purpose of this event was to raise awareness about the role of alcohol in drinking and driving incidents. It also sought to maximise awareness about these risks while promoting vehicle roadworthiness

and driver wellness. The festive season brings increased activity in the liquor and gambling sectors, often resulting in elevated alcohol consumption.

The KZNERA said while this is economically beneficial, it also contributes to concerning social challenges, including binge drinking, road accidents, and other unsafe behaviours that lead to fatalities. According to agency, the objective of the campaign is not only to ensure smooth flows of traffic but also to prevent negligent and reckless driving that results in road crashes, injuries and fatalities.

Amongst politicians who were part of the activation team included Speaker Cllr Thembelihle Nqubuka and Cllr Nkululeko Mkhasibe. They

participated in stopping of the vehicles, engaging with the occupants on road safety and also distributed goodie bags to the motorists. At the end of the programme, Lt. Colonel XI Khanyi briefed the stakeholders that the police spotted a suspicious vehicle and discovered stolen diesel. Two suspects were arrested on spot.

Lt. Col. Khanyi emphasised that this operation will continue until the end of January 2025. He then urged the members to work together to fight this battle. Speaker Nqubuka, on behalf of the Mayor, thanked everyone who participated in the event. She said it was important for motorists to obey the rules of the road at all material times and wished everyone a safer festive season.



UThukela Speaker Cllr Nqubuka talking to motorists

**Mayor welcomes two new water tankers from CoGTA**

In an effort to augment water supply in the UThukela District Municipality, His Worship the District Mayor Inkosi NB Shabalala welcomed two new water tankers from the MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) the Honourable Rev. Thulasizwe Buthelezi. The handover event was held at the Alfred Duma Municipality Council Chambers.

In his opening remarks, Inkosi Shabalala welcomed with appreciation the intervention by the MEC COGTA highlighting the importance of water tankers to communities that do not have access to water infrastructure and during water outages.

"We have purchased 7 water tankers already as the municipality. Aging infrastructure is posing a challenge in water supply. There's a major water project that is currently taking place in Ekvukeni. We hope that once it is finished, then there will be no need for water tankers for Ekvukeni", said the Mayor.

He alluded to the fact that community protests have since decreased in the district. He also said the community of Weenen needs a honeysucker but due to financial constraints, UThukela District is unable to provide such service.

Taking to the podium, MEC Buthelezi said they were here to handover two water tankers to UThukela District. "Before the end of November, we will have a District Development Model session with the UThukela District, where we will monitor all water issues in the district. On the second day, we will monitor the water provision per ward and per voting district".

"We will also look at the communal schemes and pipelines in Alfred Duma municipality. CoGTA will then give a status report on all Municipal Infrastructure Grant projects. Water Affairs will give responses on how we go about getting additional funding. We want to play a meaningful role in ensuring that people do get water supply in the district", said Rev Buthelezi.

He said the previous Administrator wasn't assisting the Mayor to discharge his duties hence he was fired. He emphasized that the Mayor is the face and central power in the municipality. "For the municipality to function, we all must support the vision of the Mayor."

The Honourable MEC Rev. Buthelezi said they want to make sure that the UThukela District receives the financial support it deserves. According to the MEC, the first quarter of DDM in 2025 will be held in Inkosi Langalibalele to discuss water related issues. He then urged everyone to be the servants of the people. He concluded by saying that they were here to deliver on their mandate, not just talk.



MEC Buthelezi handing over the keys to Mayor Shabalala while ADM Mayor Sibisi and Deputy Mayor Mkhize look on

**IMEYA EKULETHWENI KWENTUTHUKO EMPHAKATHINI**

**K**ube nentokozo enkulu ngenkathi UMhlonishwa iMeya yomkhandlu was'OThukela Inkosi yakwaShabalala ihambele umphakathi waku wadi 22 ngaphansi kukamasipala Alfred Duma. Lomcimbi wokwethulwa kukasonkontileka ububanjelwe eNhlalakahle, Esitebeleni. UMhlonishwa uchazela umphakathi ukuthi ikhansela lendawo uCllr Zwane kuningi ayekucelele ngaphambilini, wanikezelwa, njengoba sebephinde bebuya futhi njengomkhandlu.



UMeya Shabalala ethula unkulumo emhlanganweni

enele kodwa sizosifaka isicelo kuhlumeni omkhulu ukuthi asilekelele. Ube esesipha ke ayi-2000 wathi awoThukela lonkana. Sibe sesizama ukuwahlukanisa ngamawadi ukuze kuthole abantu abaningi", kuchaza okaNdabezitha.

Inkosi yakwaShabalala ibe seyethula usonkontileka uDLV Project Managers ozokwenza lomsebenzi wokwakha izindlu zangasese eziyi-75 Kulindeleke ukuthi lomsebenzi uthathe izinyanga eziyisithupha ukuwenza. Kanti futhi kuzokwakheka amathuba omsebenzi esikhashana angama- 23. Lolu uhlobo olusha lokwakhiwa kwezindlu zangasese lapho kugujwa khona umgodi uhambe ngombaxambili.

IMeya ibe isichaza futhi ukuthi banezinhlelo ezikhona zokuthi uma omunye umgodi usugcwele, kobe sekufakwa

uhlobo thizeni lwephilisi elizobolisa okuphakathi bese kuyambozwa kusetshenziswe lona omunye umgodi. Ibe isiphetha ngokuthi umkhandlu uzimisele ukwenza ngcono isimo sempilo emphakathini ngokulethela bonke abantu izidingongqangi.

Umhlonishwa ubephelekezelwa uSekela Meyu Cllr MC Mkhize, uSomlomo Cllr TY Nqubuka, Amakhansela aqhamuka oThukela kanye nase Alfred Duma, abaphathi kanye nabasebezi bomkhandlu.



"Ngaphandle kokuhlinzeka ngamanzi, siphinde sihlizzeke ngezindlu zangasese ezinesithunzi nezihlanzekile. Ikhansela labe selicela ukwakhelwa izindlu zangasese ewadini yalo. Salichazela ke ukuthi asinawo

**Award ceremony for tertiary students and small businesses**

**T**he uThukela District Municipality held an award ceremony for tertiary students and small businesses in Ladysmith Town Hall. This initiative was taken into consideration after several enquiries were made to the Mayor's Office by learners from within the district seeking financial to further their studies.

The Honourable Mayor Inkosi NB Shabalala reminded those in attendance that the core function of the UThukela District is to provide clean, drinkable water and dignified sanitation. He said they hoped that these students will one day be able to give back to communities and change people's lives.

The Mayor and his team then took a resolution to look for sponsors as a humanity efforts to support these learners in their quest to reach new heights. Maximum Profit Recovery (MaxProf) was willing to come on board.

MaxProf representative Mr Lebogang said they fully supported the programme of this nature as its

take a village to raise a child. He said they always offer several opportunities, including training and skills transfer. On that note, a large sum was donated to R196000 was donated to 29 beneficiaries to settle their outstanding tuition fees.

This amount will be divided among each student and paid directly to their respective institutions' accounts. In closing off the event, the Mayor encouraged and urged students to find their purpose and passion in life. He said that for them to sustain themselves as they are the architects of their lives and intelligence without education is incomplete.

He then thanked MaxProf on behalf of the students for funding their academic tuition. In another activity, the Mayor also handed over catering businesses with equipment such as pots, chafing dishes, gas stoves and chairs, ensuring that they are equipped to offer their services at a professional level. Ndabezitha also supported the establishment of an internet café

by providing them with laptop and a photocopier, giving a local entrepreneur the tools they need to strive in the digital age.

"Small businesses are the heartbeat of our communities. When they succeed, we all succeed. By providing support, we are not just giving them equipment, we are giving them the means to grow and succeed in their business, creating employment opportunities and contribute to the economic development of uThukela" said the Mayor.

The Mayor then encouraged all young people who have entrepreneurial ambitions to take advantage of this opportunity. UThukela Youth Office will provide guidance and support throughout the application process, ensuring that no one is left behind. Small who benefited are: Sphethano trading enterprises; gas stove, 9kg gas cylinder, and cooking pots. Zingelwayo Siyanqoba Pty Ltd; laptop, photocopier printer, and cartridges and Muntomuhle Pty Ltd; chafing dishes and 100 chairs.

**Why do we need to conserve water?**

We have to be aware that the amount of drinking water available is limited and it has got a price so we've to use it correctly. The main problem is that in many countries there isn't enough drinking water.



Mayor Shabalala with beneficiaries of the programme



## UTHUKELA DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTS NEW DEPUTY MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor of UThukela District Municipality was elected by the Council during a special Council meeting that was held at the Ladysmith Town Hall on October 17. Cllr MC Mkhize, who is from the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), will serve alongside the Mayor of UThukela District Inkosi NB Shabalala.

The position of the Deputy Mayor became vacant in February 2023 when the National Command of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) instructed all its members to vacate their positions following the fall out with the IFP in the province. Cllr MH Shange heeded the call and subsequently resigned from his position

The proceedings were presided over by the Municipal Manager Mr LS Jili and Speaker Cllr TY Nqubuka. Cllr Mkhize was first sworn in as Uthukela District Councillor and EXCO member replacing Cllr SW Khumalo from Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality who submitted his resignation letter to Council.

Another resignation was received from EXCO member Cllr MM Khoza from Alfred Duma Local Municipality. Both Councillors are coming from the IFP.

The newly elected Deputy Mayor defeated his rival Cllr AS Mazibuko from the African National Congress (ANC) by 18 votes to 11. He was welcomed by members of various political formations who reminded

him of the daunting task ahead of delivering services to the people.

The Mayor also congratulated Cllr Mkhize by being optimistic that things will be much easier now that the Deputy Mayor position at the UThukela District Council has been filled. In his remarks, the new Deputy Mayor Cllr Mkhize was very brief and thanked his political party for putting a trust in him.

"I know what is expected from me. But what is even more important is that I will support you Ndabezitha as your Deputy Mayor in ensuring that you continue to deliver services to the people." he said. His remarks were applauded by the admiring crowd who had gathered inside the hall at the gallery to witness the proceedings.



Newly elected Deputy Mayor Cllr Mkhize is congratulated by Inkosi Shabalala

## Intensification of food inspection as contamination cases soar

In response to an alarming increase in food contamination cases, allegedly linked to food bought from local shops, particularly foreign-owned businesses, uThukela District Municipality announced that it has intensified routine inspections. This was done through inspecting all premises to ensure compliance with food safety regulations and municipal bylaws.

UThukela District Mayor Inkosi NB Shabalala accompanied by Okhahlamba Mayor Cllr V Mlotshwa, Cllr M Khoza and officials conducted business inspections in Bergville under Okhahlamba local municipality going from shop to shop while conducting compliance checks.

The aim of the inspection was to call for communities to ensure the food they buy and consume is fit for human consumption. This emphasis is on the already existing inspections conducted by Municipal Health Inspectors, from time to time to ensure that the food sold at these supermarkets is safe for

human consumption. And to ensure that the environment in which the food is prepared and kept is clean. These inspections take place at least once a month in various local municipalities to ensure food safety compliance.

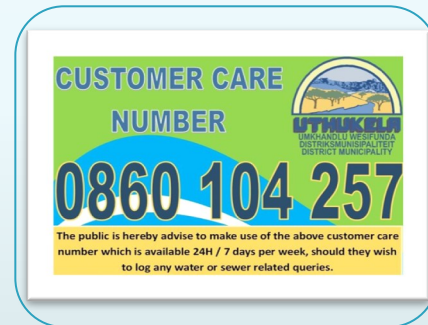
Inkosi Shabalala said the municipality has intensified its inspections to ensure that food intended for public consumption is safe and properly handled. "In some shops, you will find food, including children's snacks, stored in the vicinity of or directly under chemicals and pesticides and some have expired", said the Mayor.

He also said one of the major contributors to food contamination resulting in serious food poisoning cases was the manner in which food is prepared and stored in these shops. In addition, the Mayor urged residents to read food labels carefully before making purchases. "Ensure that your food products are obtained from reputable suppliers or manufacturers. Avoid overstocking food products that will not move quickly within that

community," he advised. The personal hygiene of those handling food in the shop plays a significant role, particularly when snacks are bought in bulk and repackaged. Overstocking and poor stock rotation result in food reaching their sell-by dates while still within the shop, which is a major challenge.

"We take samples of suspected foods to the laboratory for analysis to check for the presence of contaminants. We conduct targeted weekly operations on tuck shops within the district, focusing on the safety of food sold within these establishments, said Mrs Gugu Mazibuko, Municipal Health Manager.

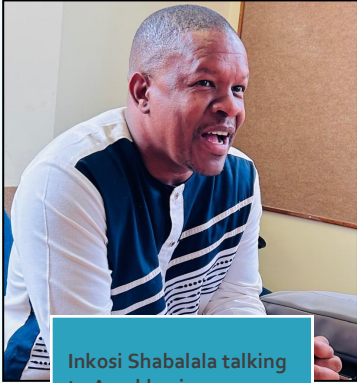
The inspections were carried out in partnership with the SAPS, Traffic Department, Okhahlamba Local Municipality, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs (business regulation and consumer protection) and the uThukela District Municipality Environmental Health Practitioners. Several fines were issued, particularly to foreign-owned businesses where it was found that they were selling expired food.



Mayor Shabalala checking food items

### UTHUKELA DISTRICT LOCAL HOUSE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

UThukela District Mayor, INKosi NB Shabalala met with the UThukela District Local House of Traditional Leaders (Amakhosi as'oThukela) for a special Christmas celebration at the Department of CoG-TA offices in Ladysmith.



Inkosi Shabalala talking to Amakhosi

This gathering provides an opportunity for the Mayor to appreciate Amakhosi for their steadfast support, collaboration, and commitment to serving and uplifting the UThukela community throughout the year.

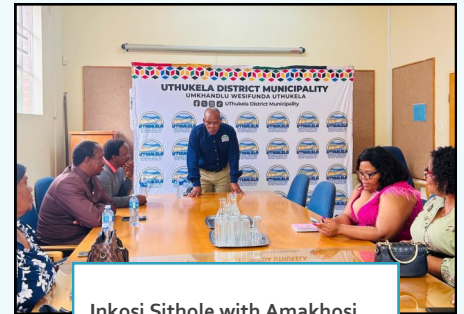
The event also served as a platform to reflect on shared achievements and strengthen ties for future development.

The Christmas celebration underscores the importance of unity between the municipality and traditional leadership in addressing community needs. His Worship, the Mayor INKosi NB Shabalala, emphasized the crucial role Amakhosi play in fostering development, preserving cultural heritage, and ensuring the well-being of the people within the UThukela District.



The gathering also highlights the collaborative efforts in critical areas such as water provision, sanitation, and community development programs. By working together, the municipality and Amakhosi aim to build a resilient and prosperous future for all residents of UThukela.

In the spirit of the festive season, the event included a presentation of gifts and tokens of appreciation to the Amakhosi, celebrating their contributions to the district.



Inkosi Sithole with Amakhosi

### PREMIER HOSTS CRIME IMBIZO IN NYEZANE



KwaZulu Natal Premier Mr Thami Ntuli addressing the audience

The Mayor of Thukela District Municipality, Cllr NB Shabalala welcomed the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, the Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli and his delegates, as the Premier held the Provincial Crime Fighting Imbizo, in the UThukela District under the Inkosi Langalibalele Municipality in Nyezane.

Amongst others, the Premier was accompanied by the KZN Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt. General Nhlanelo Mkhwanazi, who outlined some of the challenges affecting the Nyezane community in Ward 3. The District Mayor stated that the area of Nyezane had become a dangerous community where you hear of murders frequently.

"This is, of course, worrying because when community members are killed, Amakhosi have the task of figuring out and making sure that the families left

behind are taken care of," said Inkosi Shabalala.

The police provincial commissioner said they had a challenge of filling positions in the SAPS in Nyezane area because no one wanted to be deployed there, highlighting the danger of this area. Mkhwanazi said they are hopeful under the leadership of the newly elected police District Commissioner, General Gonya, the crime in Nyezane will be slowly curbed.

He said some arrests have been made of criminals terrorizing this community. Following the murders that took place where five people were murdered, the provincial commissioner stated that one person had been arrested, which showed a positive way forward although there was still a long way forward.

The Premier urged community members to stand together and report crime / criminals. "If you are afraid of reporting crime in your area, you can now go report to another district", said the Premier. He then tasked the three local municipalities (Inkosi Langalibalele, Alfred Duma and Okhahlamba) to come up with sport programs in December that will gather the youth - where the discussion of crime will be the main focus of the day.

