



EZOTHUKELA NEWS

Keeping you informed, all the times!

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Official Newsletter of the UThukela District Municipality

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS LEAVE A TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION IN WEENEN



Speaker Nqubuka with Councillors handing over relief stock to affected family member

Heavy rains, accompanied by violent thunderstorms, damaging winds and hail, have swept across some parts of the UThukela District, leaving many residents without shelter, electricity and other facilities as families were left homeless. These unfortunate weather conditions were experienced on Friday and Saturday nights respectively.

Inkosi Langalibalele and Alfred Duma Local Municipalities were mostly affected. This has resulted in the deployment of the rapid-response disaster management teams from the UThukela and Inkosi Langalibalele municipalities to the affected areas after storms with heavy rains, large hail and gale-force winds swept through the region.

These teams were led by the UThukela District Speaker Cllr TY Nqubuka and Inkosi Langalibalele Deputy Mayor Cllr Dladla who were accompanied by Cllr Buthelezi, Cllr Xaba and Cllr Mlele. Disaster management teams were promptly dispatched to assess the damage caused by the storm and

were able to compile the report on those who needed urgent assistance.

Based on the report that was compiled, the teams were then able to distribute relief stock according to each household's needs. Among the relief stock were corrugated iron sheets, plastic sheets, sanitary packs, sponges and kitchen sets. Amongst the areas that were hardest hit by the storm were Nhlalwe, Ngodini and Thembalihle.

In these areas one could find that in most cases, rooftops were blown off but the structure remained intact while on the other hand some building structures were completely destroyed. Speaking to the affected residents, Speaker Nqubuka consoled them by saying that this was just a natural phenomenon and therefore there's nothing that could be done to prevent it.

"Storm damage is a natural phenomenon which we as human beings can do nothing to prevent it. We are, however, thankful that so

far we have not heard any reports of loss of lives or injuries. We also wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the victims of this devastating event", said Speaker Nqubuka. These words were echoed by Cllr Dladla who also thanked the disaster teams for their prompt response and positive efforts. Disaster teams also conducted their assessments in the Alfred Duma region.



ABOVE: Officials delivering relief stock
BELOW: One of the houses that were damaged



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UTHUKELA DISTRICT WELCOMES 10 STATIC WATER TANKS FROM KZN COGTA

The uThukela District Municipality, today welcomed the support and official handover of 10 static water tanks, each with a capacity of 5 000 litres. These tanks were donated by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

The handover took place at the uThukela District Municipality Offices and forms part of ongoing interventions. This is aimed at strengthening water security and improving access to water for communities across the district, particularly those affected by water supply challenges.

The event was attended uThukela District Mayor, Inkosi N.B. Shabalala, Speaker TY Nqubuka, Councillors,

Municipal Manager Mr LS Jili alongside municipal officials and stakeholders. Speaking at the event, Inkosi Shabalala emphasized the importance of intergovernmental cooperation in addressing service delivery challenges.

"The provision of these static water tanks will assist in ensuring emergency water storage and distribution while long-term water infrastructure solutions are being implemented. We urge our communities to take care of this infrastructure for their own sake", said Mayor Shabalala.

The Mayor also expressed his appreciation to COGTA KZN for the

continued support and reaffirmed his commitment to working with all spheres of government to improve the quality of life for residents of UThukela District.



Inkosi Shabalala and Speaker Nqubuka officially welcoming the new static tanks

UMeya was'OTHukela Uhambise Izindlu Zangasese eMampevini



UMeya Shabalala ngenkathi ethula usonkontileka emphakathini

UMeya woMkhandlu wesifunda uThukela Inkosi NB Shabalala m, uhambele indawo yaseMampevini ku Wadi 1 ongaphansi kukaMasipala was'Okhahlamba. Loluhlelo lokuhanjiswa kwezindlu zangasese luza emva kwesicelo sika khansela wendawo uCllr Dlamini mayelana nokushoda

nezingamashumi amahlanu (50) kulindeleke ukuthi wenziwe ngokukhulu ukushesha.

Eqhuba UMhlonishwa uMeya uthe lomsebenzi uyothatha izinyanga ezintathu ukuze uphuthulwe kuphinde kwakheke namathuba omsebenzi esikhashana ayishuminanhlano (15).

Umhlangano ube ususalwa uSomlomo woMkhandlu uCllr TY Nqubuka nobongele kakhulu lowo oyikhansela lendawo ngalentuthuko elethwe uMkhandlu wesifunda uThukela.

UMhlonishwa uMeya ubephelekezelwa ngu Somlomo woMkhandlu uThukela uCllr TY Nqubuka , amakhansela okubalwa kuwo uCllr Mvelase, Cllr Qwabe, Cllr Buthelezi, Cllr Khoza, Cllr Dlamini, Cllr Sehlaku kanye nabasebenzi boMkhandlu wesifunda uThukela.

kwezindlu zangasese ezinesithunzi endaweni ayakhele.

OkaNdabezitha ube esenikela khona mathupha kuleya ndawo ukuyophendula isoyi, wafike wethula nosonkontileka wenkampani yakwa DLV construction nehlonziwe ukuba yakhele lomphakathi izindlu zangasese. Lezi zindlwana

Umphakathi usamukele ngenkulu injabulo isenzo soMkhandlu wesifunda uThukela. Wabonga wanconcoza ngokufika kwentuthuko endaweni yawo. Kube sekuhlatshwa isoyi ukuze kuqaliswe lomsebenzi ngokusemthethweni.



Kungenkathi sekuhlatshwa isoyi ukuqalisa ngokusemthethweni komsebenzi



KZN Government Steps Up Foot-and-Mouth Disease Intervention in the Uthukela District

The Provincial Government's intervention to curb the spread of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is now on a higher gear, with intensified efforts underway across all affected areas. This was evident on the 10th of February 2026, when the KwaZulu-Natal Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) hosted a Foot-and-Mouth Disease Intervention Programme at the Okhahlamba Multi-Purpose Centre.



Speaker Nqubuka during the community engagement session

The engagement was attended by local farmers, community members, Amakhosi, departmental stakeholders, and other relevant role-players, reflecting a united front in the fight against the disease. The first case of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Okhahlamba was recorded in March 2025, prompting the Department to immediately place affected areas under quarantine and conduct testing.

While the situation stabilised for a period, the virus resurfaced and spread rapidly in July 2025. The Uthukela District Municipality, represented by Speaker, Cllr TY Nqubuka, heard that a total of 37 cases tested positive, including infections identified at both dip tanks and livestock kraals, with samples collected and submitted to laboratories for confirmation.

The Uthukela District has since been identified as one of the most severely affected districts, with 62% of tested cases returning positive results. As part of the ongoing response, the Department of Agriculture has collected over 3 500 samples across the district to monitor and contain the outbreak. However, several challenges continue to hinder the response efforts. These include the shortage of vaccines, particularly from the end of November 2025, which contributed to an increase in infections.

Another major concern is the illegal movement of livestock without notifying the Department, which undermines control measures and prevents farmers from receiving proper guidance and disease prevention packs. In addition, the Department continues to experience delays in receiving laboratory results, affecting the speed of intervention.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease spreads easily from one animal to another through saliva or open wounds, and can also be transmitted through contaminated shoes, vehicles, and equipment moving between farms. The virus typically takes 10 to 14 days before symptoms become visible in infected animals. To reduce suffering, affected livestock can be first treated with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication to manage pain and prevent secondary infections.

Infected cattle often become severely ill, struggling to eat or walk. Despite these efforts, the Department has raised concern that the available medication remains insufficient to cover the full needs of the Uthukela District. The Department reaffirmed that they are working tirelessly to curb the spread of the virus and protect livestock across the district.





How to apply for indigent services

- 1** Visit your nearest municipality and complete an application form to see if you are eligible for the benefits.

You may also contact your ward councillor or subcouncil office to apply.
- 2** What to include in your application:

 - proof of identification (ID/Passport)
 - a bank statement for the last three months or a sworn affidavit stating that you do not have a bank account
 - a bond statement for the last three months or a sworn affidavit stating that you do not have a bond account.
 - If you have inherited the house, a copy of the estate documents.
 - If you receive a SASSA grant, bring a letter from SASSA confirming your grant as well as your SASSA card.
- 3** If you are employed, include the following in your application: latest salary/wage payslip or a letter from an employer stating your income.

If you are self-employed, a sworn affidavit stating how much you earn per month; and proof if you receive a disability grant, maintenance grant or pension.

If you are unemployed, include the following in your application: a sworn affidavit stating that you are unemployed; and a sworn affidavit stating that you have no other source of income.



PAY YOUR MUNICIPAL BILLS

Timely payment of municipal bills forms the foundation of efficient service delivery. As a responsible citizen or government stakeholder, your commitment to paying on time is essential. This simple yet vital action helps ensure sustainable and uninterrupted services for our communities, now and in the future.

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UTHUKELA DISTRICT VISITS THEMBAHLIHLA AFTER VANDALISM OF INFRASTRUCTURE

The Deputy Mayor of UThukela District Municipality, Cllr MC Mkhize accompanied by Inkosi Langelibalele Mayor Cllr M Myeza, including Councillors and officials, visited Thembalihle area in Inkosi Langelibalele Local Municipality one afternoon.

The purpose of the visit was to actively address the surge in water infrastructure vandalism after Them-



Deputy Mayor Mkhize addressing the community

balihle pump station was vandalized, leaving this community without water supply. Cllr Mkhize described it as a major contributor to water shortages, service delivery failures, and financial strain on municipality.

“We are here bring to you bad news. Our water treatment works has been completely vandalized. The unfortunate part is that this comes as the community is struggling to get consistent water supply. UThukela District Municipality has no capacity to provide security services to guard the plant around the clock”, said Cllr Mkhize.

He went on to explain that electric pole was cut down, transformer vandalized, electricity panel and pumps were also destroyed. The Deputy Mayor also stated that the vandalized equipment is very expensive.

“However, it cannot assist us to come here and tell you about problems but we need to provide solutions. As difficult as it is right now but we have to come up with ways and means to assist you to get water supply”, he alluded.

He further stated that it is a well known fact that the municipality owes electricity bills to Eskom, but they will need the entity to replace damaged transformer. Eskom only seeks assurance that UThukela DM

will provide security to safeguard its infrastructure. In the meantime, the municipality has arranged a water tanker from CoGTA to supply the affected communities with water until the situation improves.

This process will start on Friday, 13 March and the truck will work during weekdays. Cllr Mkhize strongly suspected the act of political sabotage in this matter. He concluded by promising the community that they are going to be the part of the solution to get things moving. The Mayor of Inkosi Langelibalele Cllr Myeza then called upon the community to work together with both municipalities to apprehend these culprits.



Community members who attended the meeting



EXTRACT FROM SALGA

SALGA RAISES ALARM OVER ESCALATING MUNICIPAL DEBT AND DEEPENING FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) expresses serious concern over the continued and unsustainable growth of municipal consumer debt, which has now reached R427.7 billion as at 30 June 2025.

This alarming debt level places municipalities under severe financial and liquidity pressure, directly threatening their ability to deliver basic services, maintain critical infrastructure, and uphold the constitutional mandate of developmental local government.

Of particular concern is the fact that almost 88% of all outstanding municipal debt is older than 90 days, significantly reducing the likelihood of recovery and placing municipalities in an untenable cash-flow position.

Currently, 49 municipalities are in negative cash positions, highlighting a sector-wide liquidity crisis that undermines financial sustainability and service delivery obligations.

Households remain the single largest contributor to municipal consumer debt, accounting for nearly three-quarters of all outstanding balances. Alarming, almost 90% of household debt is older than 90 days, pointing to entrenched non-payment behaviours, affordability constraints, weaknesses in indigent management systems, and declining payment culture.

This situation severely constrains municipal revenue streams, complicates compliance with Section 32 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), and limits municipalities' ability to invest in maintenance,

infrastructure upgrades, and service expansion.

The prolonged non-payment by some organs of state is particularly concerning, as it undermines cooperative governance principles and shifts the financial burden onto already strained municipalities.

SALGA emphasises that the relatively small proportion of short-term debt (0–60 days) indicates that the crisis is not primarily about billing performance, but rather the failure to recover aged debt. This entrenched pattern of arrears reflects a structural revenue collection crisis that requires urgent, coordinated intervention.

SALGA reiterates that financial sustainability is not optional. It is fundamental to restoring public confidence, strengthening governance, and ensuring that municipalities can fulfil their constitutional mandate to improve the quality of life for all South Africans.



Mayor Addresses Water Shortages For St Chad's Residents

Following recent water shortage protest that was staged by the residents of St Chad's in Alfred Duma local municipality, and subsequent engagements with the UThukela District Municipality leadership, the municipality visited this area on Sunday. The purpose was to provide feedback on progress made in relation to the broken pumps that were to be fixed by the service provider last Friday.

Water crisis in St Chad's has triggered protest due to, in some instances, week-long outages and no water tankers to bring temporal relief to the area. Residents are demanding reliable water supply and refurbishment of broken water boreholes in the area. They also cited poor communication between the municipality, Ward Councillors and community as another concern.

Addressing these issues, Mayor of UThukela District Inkosi NB Shabalala said the problem is that, "We have a broken pump

in Ladysmith Water Treatment Works (WTW) and service provider promised to fix it last Friday. Unfortunately they couldn't fix it on time because they had to order it from the manufacturer and will be delivered once it's ready. We said that while we are still waiting we will dispatch water tankers as a temporary solution. Normally, we have a limited number of water tankers so we can't afford to dispatch them all over the place at once".

He further explained that reservoirs were designed to supply a small number of people. However, the population has grown steadily since then and now UThukela District Municipality is faced with the challenge of increasing the capacity of the reservoirs to provide enough water to meet the growing demand. He said without state funding for such projects, the costs could be too high for the municipality to afford.

The Mayor said the best possible solution for now is to desludge the Ezakheni WTW in order to increase its capacity to supply more water

to the community. The community raised a wide array of issues that have become increasingly common in their daily lives. These included shortage of water tankers, broken boreholes and lack of access to adequate water supplies.

In his explanation, the Mayor informed the community that there are three ways that the UThukela District gets money from; the grants, equitable share and revenue collection. He said that about 95% of our consumers are from rural areas. Only a fraction of areas from town that are paying for services. So, it becomes more difficult to deliver services when the municipality has insufficient resources to provide services to everyone. This is putting a strain upon UThukela District to be able to satisfy all these needs.

The Mayor urged the residents to be patient as the municipality is trying its utmost best to resolve the situation. He said the service provider have informed the municipality that the pumps will be ready on Tuesday. He assured them that water tankers will be dispatched to supply water as a temporary solution until the situation improves.



Mayor Shabalala with Speaker Nqubuka and Cllr Khoza addressing the community



Community members attending the meeting

UTHUKELA INTRODUCES A CONTRACTOR TO SUPPLY WATER

The UThukela District Municipality has been actively involved in introducing initiatives, contractors, and working with water service providers to manage severe, ongoing water crisis in the district. The Mayor Inkosi NB Shabalala together with Ward Cllr Buthelezi, Cllr Khoza, Cllr Qwabe, Cllr Hlongwane, Cllr Mvelase and officials visited Zwelisha and Tabhane areas under Okhahlamba Local Municipality.

The purpose of this visit was to introduce a service provider who will undertake the drilling of production boreholes. Speaking to the community members, the Mayor said the UThukela District Municipality has done a lot of work in trying to address water challenges.

He said although it wasn't easy to do it due to financial constraints but as the

leadership they are determined to service the communities at all times.

"We used to go to places where there was no reliable water supply and we would drill boreholes. But still people were never satisfied with the services rendered. Now, we have come up with the idea of drilling production boreholes within the communities so that they would have access to water supply", said the Mayor.

The challenge in Zwelisha was the issue of capacity of the reservoir. This reservoir was constrained due to increased number of population in the area. So, the best option to augment water supply was to drill a production boreholes to increase water supply. Whilst the municipality is still waiting for the approval of its

funding application for the project from the National Government, it will continue to resort to drilling production boreholes to augment water supply.

This project was awarded to Sydwalt Construction. It is expected to take up to six months to complete. About 10 temporary job opportunities will be created for the locals.

Once it is completed, the project itself is envisaged to benefit about 114 households in Zwelisha and 68 households in Tabhane. The source of funding is coming from Water, Infrastructure and Sanitation Grant (WISG).



Mayor Shabalala with Councillors during a sod turning ceremony

UTHUKELA DISTRICT COMMENCES WITH PRODUCTION BOREHOLE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN WARD 14

Delivering water to rural communities requires not only technical expertise but also a deep understanding of the needs of the people who benefit from these services. The

event was attended by the Chief Whip, Cllr Qwabe, Councillor of Ward 14 Cllr Khoza, Traditional Leaders, and municipal officials.

The event symbolised a significant milestone in addressing water challenges in the area. This production borehole project will provide residents with access to water closer to their homes, improving daily living conditions and overall community well-being.

The scope of the project includes the siting and drilling of a production borehole, Eskom application, construction of a pump house, installation of a pump, a 12-hour pump test, construction of a package plant, installation of 50mm HDPE reticulation pipelines with associated valves.

Furthermore, construction of 10 community standpipes, fencing of the borehole site, and the installation of three (3) 10,000-litre storage tanks and stands. Upon completion, all equipment will be fully tested and commissioned before being handed

over to operations to ensure long-term sustainability and functionality.

The project is funded through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) and is expected to be completed within approximately six (6) months. The appointed contractor is Sydwalt (Pty) Ltd. Once completed, the project will benefit approximately 114 households and create about 10 temporary job opportunities during the construction phase.

This is expected to also contribute to local economic development. Cllr Khoza assured residents that the project

will significantly improve water availability. He also expressed concern over incidents of vandalism and theft of water infrastructure and called on the community to protect these critical assets.

CUSTOMER CARE NUMBER
0860 104 257
The public is hereby advise to make use of the above customer care number which is available 24H / 7 days per week, should they wish to log any water or sewer related queries.



Cllr Qwabe and Cllr Khoza with Sydwalt representative

UThukela District Municipality has officially commenced with the Production Borehole Water Supply Project in Ward 14 under the Alfred Duma Local Municipality.

The project aims to improve access to reliable and sustainable water supply for the community of Hobsland (Ezigebengwini), which has been faced with ongoing water supply challenges. The project was marked by a sod-turning and handover ceremony which



Community members who gathered during the event

UTHUKELA EMKHANKASWENI WOKUBUYISELA EZIKOLENI

I njabulo ibibhalwe ebusweni babafundi namuhla ekuseni ngesikhathi uSomlomo woMkhandlu wasoThukela ephathe izipho zabafundi bamabanga aphezulu esikoleni iTholithemba. Lezizipho kubalwa kuzo umfaniswano wesikole, izicathulo, amajezi ebhola kanye nezinye izinsiza ezibalulekile.



USomlomo Nqubuka ngenkathi enikela ngezizipho ezahlukene esikoleni

Lesi sikole sakhele indawo yaseZwelishanga ngaphansi kuMasipala Okhahlamba kuWadi 9. USomlomo uCllr TY Nqubuka ubephelezela ubuholi boMkhandlu okubalwa kubo uKhansela Buthelezi, uKhansela we Wadi uHlongwane, uKhansela Mvelase kanye nabasebenzi bomkhandlu, beyoqhuba umkhankaso wokubuyela esikoleni (Back to School Campaign).

Abahlonishwa baphinde banikela ngegrosa kubafundi abahlala emqashweni kule ndawo. USomlomo uphinde wazibophezela ekuqhubekeni nokwenza umehluko emphakathini ngokweseka izikole ezingaphansi kwesifunda sasoThukela, ngenhloso yokunqoba izinselelo ezibhekene nabafundi.

Loluhlelo kuhloswe ngalo ukusiza noku-khuthaza umfundi ngamunye ukuthi azethembe futhi agxile emsebenzini wakhe wesikole. Lwemukelwe ngezandla ezifudumele ngombambele uthishanhloko, othisha, abafundi, isigungu esengamele isikole kanye namalungu omphakathi abekhona kulo mcimbi. Ibamba likathishanhloko, uMnuz Mkhonza, uzwakalise okukhulu ukuthobeka nokubonga, wathi isikole sibusisekile ngokuhanjelwa ubuholi boMkhandlu wasoThukela.

USomlomo ukhuthaze abafundi wathi, "Singumkhandlu siyayiqonda inselelo abafundi ababhekana nayo nsuku zonke. Kodwa sinethemba ngalesi sizukulwane ukuthi yisona esiyoba ikusasa lalelizwe. Inhlonipho nokuzimisela kubalulekile futhi akekho omunye oyoshintsha isimo sakho nesasekhaya ngaphandle kwakho uqobo. Ngakho imfundo ibalulekile, ngoba awukho umlingo wempumelelo ngaphandle kwemfundo nenhlonipho."

Uphinde wagquguzela abafundi ukuthi bafunde ngokuzimisela ukuze babe nekusasa eliqhakazile, waphinde wathembisa ukuthi ubudlelwane obuhle phakathi koMkhandlu nazo zonke izikole ezingaphansi kwesifunda buzoqhubeka. Uphinde washayela ihlombe ngothisha basesikoleni iTholithemba ngokusebenza ngokuzikhandla ekwakheni ikusasa eliqhakazile labafundi.



Abafundi bejabulela izipho zika Somlomo



EXTRACT FROM DWS

VANDALISM, THEFT THREATEN WATER AND SANITATION RIGHTS



These are the results of senseless vandalism that we are faced with



Water is life and central to the socio-economic development of society. South Africa is a water-scarce country, which calls for the wise and sparing use of the available water and the protection of water infrastructure from theft and vandalism to prevent unnecessary leakages and water losses to ensure that everyone has access to the source of life.

Water security calls for responsible communities to ensure that there is no unnecessary loss of precious water, as every drop counts. Access to water is a basic human right, but it is violated by irresponsible people through criminal activities, which usually leave communities high and dry. These criminal acts also result in polluting water resources.

The main challenge we are experiencing as a country is infrastructure theft and vandalism. Theft, vandalism and de-

struction are social and economic sabotage and has serious negative consequences for communities and the environment.

Theft and vandalism of electricity infrastructure is also a serious threat to the provision of reliable water and sanitation services. The destruction takes place in different forms. Theft of infrastructure parts is another challenge that is causing serious challenges for reliable water supply and proper sanitation management.

Vandalism leads to massive losses of precious water and leaves communities without the source of life. Illegal connections lead to leaks, wasting immense amounts of water, while tampering with valves leaves communities without water and leads to sewer spillages.

Illegal connections also result in reduced pressure in pipelines, leaving

other communities, especially in high-lying areas, without water.

Let us protect and stop the vandalism of our water infrastructure to ensure a reliable water supply for everyone. Vandalism of sanitation infrastructure on the other side contributes to sewer spillages and the pollution of water resources.

Vandalism and theft of sewer management infrastructure lead to the flow of untreated sewage into water resources, which is basically the main source of water pollution in our country.

Water resources pollution has negative socio-economic consequences for communities, as it also affects the environment and the ecosystem. Sewer spillages pose a health risk, are detrimental to the environment and negatively affect food security. We can prevent unnecessary health risks and environmental degradation by preventing infrastructure vandalism in our communities.