

## MINISTER HLABISA HANDS OVER THE EKUVUKENI WATER SUPPLY PROJECT



Minister Hlabisa addressing the audience

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Mr Velenkosini Hlabisa officially handed over the completed works of the Ekuvukeni Water Supply Project in Alfred Duma Municipality under the uThukela District. This landmark event marked a significant advancement in delivering reliable water supply to the people of Ekuvukeni and surroundings. The project was implemented by the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) with funding from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), under the guidance of CoGTA.

“We then reached a common ground on this issue. We are happy to see that there is a great progress being achieved. We also had a challenge with water shortages and sewer spillages in Ekuvukeni. But the main issue with water shortages was that the Oliphantskop Dam was only designed to supply water to people of Ekuvukeni. The community has since grown into a large number hence there was a need to increase capacity”, said Mayor Shabalala.

He said it was a pleasure to announce that the project was now completed, and water was flowing. “We understand that there are few communities where water is still a challenge. We are also concerned about illegal connections in some of the households. We are here to congratulate our women who will no longer have to travel long distances to get water. We also thank you for your patience and urge you to look after the infrastructure for your own benefit”, said Mr Hlabisa.

The UThukela District Mayor, Inkosi NB Shabalala said when they first arrived in the office they realized that people did not have access to enough water supply. They then approached the State President, the then Minister of Water and Sanitation and KZN Provincial Administration for their intervention. The Mayor stated that it has been a long journey to get where they are at this point in time. All their efforts have been focused towards improving service delivery and making sure that the people do have access to clean potable water supply in the end.

He further added that with this intervention, many people are now able to receive water supply. Those who do not receive water as yet, he said, there are also plans to connect them soon. The Mayor also said that the issue of sewer lines is a thorn in the flesh. However, the municipality has plans in place to eradicate this issue. He urged people to take care of their infrastructure and not to vandalize it. Taking to the podium, Minister Hlabisa reminded the public that he was here last year and committed to come back earlier this year but couldn't due to unfinished work at the plant. There were few challenges encountered along the way.

This project comes in good time for the community as they will be able to get water closer to their homes. Mr Hlabisa emphasised that there are a few repairs that need to be carried out in Petronella Pump Station. The Ekuvukeni Water Supply Project addresses long-standing challenges of inadequate water infrastructure in wards 30 to 36 of Alfred Duma Municipality, collectively serving over 14,500 households, approximately 75,655 people. Key completed works include; Construction of bulk and reticulation pipelines; Installation of 52 valve chambers, 25 communal standpipes, and multiple yard connections; Partial refurbishment of the Oliphantskop WTW Treatment Works and the Petronella Booster Pump Station; and Construction of an additional 8ML steel reticulation tank to enhance water storage capacity.



Minister Hlabisa with MEC Buthelezi, Mayor Shabalala and Mayor Sibisi posing at the event

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## UMeya uhambise intuthuko emiphakathini yase Busani nakwa Mthaniya

U Mhlonishwa uMeya woMkhandlu wesifunda uThukela iNkosi NB Shabalala uhambele imiphakathi emibili eyakhele uMasipala Inkosi Langalibalele. Lemiphakathi ihlala ezindaweni zase Busani kanye nakwa Mthaniya.

Umhlangano wesigaba sokuqala ububanjelwe ehholo lomphakathi waseBusani kuWadi 22 ngaphansi kukakhansela uDladla nophinde abengusekela Meya kumasipala waseNkosi Langalibalele. Bese kuthi umhlangano wesigaba sesibili ububanjelwe ehholo lomphakathi wakwa Mthaniya ku Wadi 21 ngaphansi kwesekhansela uButhelezi.

Inhloso ngqangi yokuhambela kulezindawo kuka Meya bekungukuletha intuthuko emayelana nokwakhiwa kwezindlu zangasese ezinesithunzi lapho kuphindwe kwethulwa khona usonkontileka wenkampani yakwa DLV Construction nezokwenza lomsebenzi ngokukhulu ukushesha nangokuzimisela.

Enkulumweni yakhe OkaNdabezitha uthe isigceme ngasinye kuzokwakhiwa izindlu zangasese ezingamashumi amahlanu (50). Lomsebenzi kulindeleke ukuba uthathe izinyanga ezintathu. Kulindeleke ukuthi kwakheke namathuba omsebenzi esikhasha-

na alinganiselwa kwayishuminanhlano (15) isigceme ngasinye.

Umhlonishwa uMeya ube esechaza kabanzi ngomsebenzi owenziwa uThukela wathi mibili nje vo; ukuhlinzeka ngamanzi aphuzekayo nahlanzekile kanye nezindlu zangasese ezinesithunzi emiphakathini yasoThukela .

Amakhansela, amakomidi kanye nomphakathi basishayeke ihlombe isenzo soMkhandlu uThukela. Kube sekuhlatshwa isoyi ukuze kuqaliswe lomsebenzi ngokusemthethweni. Umhlonishwa Meya ubephelekezelwa isigungu samakhansela omkhandlu was’OThukela kanye nawase Alfred Duma.

## UThukela District to install new prepaid water meters

**T**he UThukela District Municipality is in the process of rolling out prepaid smart water meters as a pilot project in uMnambithi. This project will start with business customers and then be rolled out to residential areas across the district. It is also part of a broader water management and sustainability programme. The purpose is to improve customer control over water usage and billing transparency.

Customers are requested to cooperate and allow access to the contractor. For safety measures, the contractor will be identified with assigned Personal Protective Equipment (POE) and will also carry the tags with their details. This action is in accordance with the municipal's mandate to ensure compliance, address water billing issues, maintain accurate water usage records, improve collection rates, enhance cus-

tomers communication, and empower customers to manage their water consumption.

To have a prepaid water meter installed, customers are required to:

1. Cooperate fully with the installation process.
2. Arrange installation of water meter with either a Control Officer at UThukela District Municipality or Isando Contractors or the Project Manager.

The municipality is working with residents to ensure a smooth transition and positive reception to the new technology. The UThukela District Municipality will continuously issuing a list of areas to be worked on by the service provider but also allow random installation upon customers request.

We urge all residents to take this matter seriously and promptly to support the successful implementation of this project. For information, please contact the following officials from our Finance Department; Mr P Koortzen - 079 978 1984 and Mr S Nkehli - 082 809 0520.



New prepaid water meter sample

## UThukela Leadership Inspects Infrastructure And Turns Sod for VIP Toilets

**U**Thukela District Municipality, under the leadership of District Mayor, Cllr Inkosi NB Shabalala, engaged with the community of eSigodlweni in Ward 18 of Inkosi LangaLibalele Municipality to address ongoing water challenges. This engagement followed concerns raised by residents through local Councillor Mchunu regarding inconsistent water supply.

It was reported that some households received water while others did not. The municipality noted incidents of vandalism of pumps by individuals seeking to create disruption and misrepresent UThukela District as not fulfilling its mandate. Rapid population growth and an increase in the number of households have also placed additional pressure on existing infrastructure.

Key challenges highlighted were the illegal connections which were identified as a major obstacle, making it difficult to detect and resolve water distribution problems. "Our responsibility as the District is to bring water to the main pipelines. However, when illegal connections are made, it becomes difficult to identify where the problem originates", said the Mayor.

It was further reported that a road construction contractor had disturbed a water pipe

distributing water in the area. To protect infrastructure, the community and stakeholders are urged to safeguard municipal assets.

In addition to water interventions, Mayor Shabalala officially conducted sod turning ceremonies to launch two major sanitation projects in Inkosi LangaLibalele Municipality. These projects will deliver 100 VIP Toilets across Ward 16 (Shayamoya) and Ward 5 (Geza), at a combined value of R1 660 000.

Construction is expected to be completed within three to six months. Importantly, the project will create job opportunities for local workers, ensuring that the initiative not only improves sanitation but also uplifts the local economy.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mayor Shabalala highlighted the Municipality's commitment to service delivery. He said this project reflects municipality's commitment to ensuring that no household is left behind when it comes to basic services.

"By investing in proper sanitation, we are investing in the health, dignity, and future of our people. We are also pleased that this

project creates jobs for local workers, who will be part of building solutions for their own communities", he added.

Inkosi LangaLibalele Municipality Mayor, Cllr M Myeza, welcomed the programmes and pledged to work closely with the District Municipality in supporting communities to ensure the success of these initiatives. The sod turnings mark the beginning of projects that will deliver long-term benefits through safe, reliable, and sustainable sanitation facilities.

UThukela District Municipality reaffirmed its commitment to urgently addressing water challenges and implementing sustainable solutions to guarantee reliable water supply and dignified sanitation for all communities in Inkosi LangaLibalele.



Mayor Shabalala speaking at the event



## MAYOR MONITORS PROGRESS ON WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE SUPPLY

The UThukela District Municipality Mayor, Inkosi NB Shabalala, conducted oversight visits to two key infrastructure projects funded by the Disaster Management Grant. These projects are aimed at restoring and improving critical water supply systems in the Okhahlamba Local Municipality.

The projects form part of an urgent intervention to refurbish and rehabilitate essential water treatment infrastructure. This comes after the challenges related to ageing equipment and extreme weather impacts in recent years.

The scope of work at the Winterton Water Treatment Works (WTW) involves, procurement, installation, and commissioning of pumps and

associated pipework. Electrical works include dislodging of the river. This project is expected to significantly enhance the plant's ability to draw raw water from the river and ensure more stable water treatment operations for surrounding communities.

The Langkloof project involves procurement, installation, and commissioning of pumps and associated pipework. The rehabilitation of this facility is critical in restoring its full operational capacity and improving water reliability for residents in the area.

During the visits, Inkosi Shabalala engaged with contractors assessing progress and ensuring accountability in project implementation. He emphasised the importance of com-

pleting the projects on time and maintaining high-quality standards.

"These projects are funded through disaster relief mechanisms because access to clean water is not a luxury, it's a basic human right. We are making sure that this funding translates directly into improved infrastructure and better services for our people," said Mayor Shabalala.

The Mayor reiterated the municipality's commitment to strengthening water infrastructure resilience and ensuring sustainable service delivery, particularly in areas most vulnerable to water disruptions.



Mayor Shabalala with Mr Mthembu and Mr Masoka speaking to the service provider

## Isithebe Samadoda Gathers Men to Impart With Knowledge and Wisdom

His Worship the District Mayor Inkosi Ntandoyenkosi Shabalala hosted the Isithebe Samadoda gathering which was held at Zwelisha Community Hall in Ward 9 under Okhahlamba Local Municipality. It attracted many stakeholders from around region to participate in this information sharing session. The aim and purpose of this gathering was to empower men with the knowledge to distinguish between a man and a real man so that they can be able to fight the scourge of gender-based violence in our country in order to create a safe environment for children and sisters.

Various government departments and agencies formed part of this gathering, and they presented on topics ranging from economic security, social ills, substance abuse, crime, gender-based violence, restorative justice and sexual health. It was explained that the problem is not men and masculinity, but it is wounded men with a distorted view of what masculinity. This men's gathering was organized to address these wounded views in order to

provide men with a proper view of masculinity.

In so doing, the gathering provided an opportunity to address and deal with the challenges of gender-based violence and other social issues. It also addressed what it means to be a man in today's world, discussing positive masculinity, healthy relationships, and overcoming challenges. The SAPS as represented by Sgt Sithole from Matsheni, thanked Ward Cllr Buthelezi and men for working together with the police in the fight against crime in the area.

He said crime is not as rampant as it once was. Although crime is declining but Zwelisha is still topping the list for the highest crimes committed in the region. "Most cases are due to violation of protection orders, followed by drug smuggling and illegal sale of alcohol. Workshop has been organised by Liquor Board to help people to get more information about liquor business. Domestic violence is also another concern for the police", he said.

He added that men have a responsibility to protect those who are vulnerable. He then urged them not take law into their own hands. Sgt Sithole also informed the audience about job opportunities currently available within the SAPS, for police trainees. He also warned the community to be cautious about scammers. Mayor Shabalala stated that when God created a man, He realised his weakness, and so He created a woman. Women respect men not because they are scared of them.

"The area of Zwelisha is leading the pack in terms of women abuse. On the issue of *Ukuthwala*, it was initially an agreement between two lovers to marry each other through the means of planned mock abduction where a man seemingly had no means to marry his girlfriend. But nowadays people have turned it to forced marriage that normally targets young women, which is wrong", the Mayor said.

Mayor Shabalala then encouraged men to be responsible, love, and take care of their family. Dr Shabalala talked about men's productive health, sexual health and family medicine. He said men between 40 to 55 years old start to experience sexual health problems.



Inkosi Shabalala addressing the audience

**UTHUKELA DISTRICT MAYOR DELIVERS SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN WARD 28**

The UThukela District Municipality, under the leadership of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Inkosi NB Shabalala, officially handed over a sanitation infrastructure project in Ward 28 of the Alfred Duma Local Municipality. The Handover of 100 VIP Toilets, was held in the community of Zwelisha, marking the commencement of the installation of 100 ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Mayor Shabalala expressed the municipality's commitment to extending basic services to all communities. "We are pleased to bring this vital service to the residents of Zwelisha. The local ward councillor made the request to the municipality, and we have responded by allocating 100 toilets for this area," he said.

The Mayor further explained that the allocation of VIP toilets across the District is guided by requests from each ward and the availability of resources across the district's 76 wards.

Highlighting the improved technology, Mayor Shabalala stated that the new VIP latrines use chemical treatments that enable waste to decompose, eliminating the need to dig new pits when the toilets are full; a significant improvement from the traditional system.

The project in Zwelisha, valued at R1.6 million, is expected to be completed within six months and will create about 30 employment opportunities for local residents. The implementation will be carried out by DLV Pro-

jects, which confirmed that construction was set to begin the following Sunday.



Mayor Shabalala and Councillors turning the sod



**UThukela District continues to engage with the communities to bring about sustainable water supply**

The UThukela District Municipality, through its Deputy Mayor Cllr MC Mkhize, continues to engage with various communities on water issues by holding public consultations and involving them in water management to ensure equitable access and promote sustainable practices, as mandated by legislation. He recently visited Ward 37 under Alfred Duma Local Municipality in Mtebhelu and Emanseleni areas.

This engagement allows communities to participate in decision-making, voice concerns about water access, and contribute to solutions for challenges like water scarcity and infrastructure maintenance. Speaking to the community, the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mkhize said that it was his second time coming to that area. The first time he was there it was during the community protest. He said that some people were complaining that they don't have water in their areas of residence but the municipality promised to do something about that.

"We attended to the complaints and then we promised to come back to report on what we have done to remedy the situation. We distributed water

tankers as a temporary solution to make sure that people have access to water supply while we were busy working on fixing the problem. We have since installed a new pump to abstract water from the river and to pump more water to the reservoir and we hope this will be a lasting solution", said the Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mkhize, further explained that the municipality is currently running a programme to ensure that where there was once water flow, it is duly restored and maintained. This is aimed to ensure that people have access to water. He was also concerned about water leaks that he witnessed in the area and said they will make means to repair those leaks so that everyone is not without water supply. He then urged these communities to safeguard the infrastructure for their own benefit.

Illegal connections were also found to be the cause for concern as water was wasted while some parts of the area did not have access to

water supply. Cllr Mkhize made it clear that the municipality was not not at the stage of connecting every household as the system is not designed for that, and if people carry on with illegal connections they will eventually collapse the system.

Few areas like Okhuzini, Kwatas and Ncwadini are the only ones that are still having a challenge in terms of access water supply. The Deputy Mayor promised that this matter will be attended to in order to ensure that these areas also have water like other areas. This as he told the audience that they are mandated to supply uninterrupted water services to all. He also said that it was important for the people know their water shedding schedules so that they can prepare themselves accordingly.

The service provider is currently busy repairing and, in some instances, replacing the pumps that were damaged during the floods. More new pumps will be delivered in three weeks time. Once this is done then water supply will be completely restored. The communities were urged to work together with the municipality in identifying water leaks so they can be attended to quickly. Extension lines will also be done after water supply has been fully restored and the system is functioning properly.



Deputy Mayor Mkhize, with Cllr Mvelase and Mr Mthi, addressing the community



Some of community members in attendance

## MAYOR HANDS OVER WATER PROJECT TO EMASWAZINI COMMUNITY

**H**is Worship the Mayor of the UThukela District Municipality, Inkosi NB Shabalala is actively involved in addressing water challenges around the district and ensuring communities have access to water. This includes overseeing upgrades to water treatment plants, providing water tankers as a temporary solution, and initiating long-term infrastructure projects. The Mayor visited Emaswazini area under Okhahlamba Local Municipality to hand over a completed water project.

This project was awarded to R&D Contractors. Its source of funding came from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). It was then completed within a twelve-month period. About 164 households have benefitted from the project. The project also created at

least 40 temporary job opportunities for the local community. Speaking during the event, Inkosi Shabalala informed the residents that UThukela District Municipality invested over R21 million to implement this project.

“We are here today to see if the water is indeed flowing. We have installed bigger pumps and waited for Eskom to connect electricity. In the meantime we are using the generators to pump water into the reservoirs. We also had to procure filters to clean the water to fit for human consumption”, he said. The Mayor then thanked the community for their patience during the whole implementation process.

He introduced two volunteers from the community who are switching

the generators on and off. According to the Mayor, these two will be placed under the EPWP programme. He then urged the community to safeguard these generators for their own benefit. He promised those are not receiving water as yet that they will probably receive by Sunday once the tank is filled up.

The UThukela District Municipality under the stewardship of the Mayor also engages with communities, listens to their concerns, and works with relevant stakeholders to find sustainable solutions to water shortages. The Mayor was accompanied by Cllr Dladla, Cllr Hadebe, Dladla, Qwabe, Speaker TY Nqubuka, Cllr Mfuphi, Mr Mvelase and officials led by Municipal Manager Mr LS Jili, GM: Mr X Mthembu and Executive Support Manager Mr S Masoka.



Inkosi Shabalala opening tap water during the official hand over

## UTHUKELA DISTRICT AND STAKEHOLDERS SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO ADDRESS WATER AND SANITATION CHALLENGES

**T**he provision of potable water and sanitation services to the community remains at the heart of the UThukela District Municipality. This was attested to as the municipality signed a four-way agreement with various stakeholders to address water and sanitation provision challenges in the district. This momentous occasion was held at the Wembezi Multipurpose Centre under Inkosi Langelibalele Local Municipality.

The agreement aims to formalize collaboration and establish clear roles and responsibilities for all parties involved in ensuring a reliable water and sanitation services for the community. It therefore outlines a framework for cooperation between the municipality and stakeholders, government departments, and potentially private sector partners.

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) are some of these strategic partners which the UThukela District Municipality has approached. These partners will not only be involved as a regulators,

but also to collaborate on issues such as leveraging technical and financial resources to jointly address the district’s other challenges such as water and sanitation provision, infrastructure maintenance, technical support and inadequate human resources.

The parties signed an agreement to collaborate on various strategic areas, such as infrastructure planning and development, water resource planning and infrastructure solutions, and capacity-building of the UThukela District Municipality officials. The MEC for CoGTA, Rev TD Buthelezi presided over this proceeding. He informed the gathering that these stakeholders will work together to operate, maintain and manage water and sanitation infrastructure including waste water treatment plants and water treatment facilities.

“This step is necessary to improve and turn around water provision in this district. I am particularly pleased with the work that the district municipality is doing, particularly over the last four months, in launching and opening new water projects. At the water summit earlier on this year, we zoomed in on how we can use Section

63 of the Constitution as a focal point to enhance our water and sanitation provision in this district”, said MEC Rev Buthelezi. He went on to say that a clear call was made to all stakeholders to meet regularly and to play their part.

He added that since then a dedicated task team, chaired by provincial CoGTA, has met with all stakeholders to ensure that they come to this point. During the signing ceremony, the UThukela District Mayor Inkosi NB Shabalala said addressing this major water and sanitation challenges requires a collaborative effort between the UThukela District Municipality and key water stakeholders. He added that their intention is to provide the community with clean water but there are challenges along the way.

“It is unfortunate that our promise has not been met. We could not provide water according to the expectations due to challenges experienced. We are hope that water challenges in the UThukela District will be the thing of the past. Signing this agreement, it is of course long overdue. But the word of wisdom is that it is better to be late than never”, said the Mayor.

**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.



Inkosi Shabalala with CoGTA MEC Rev Buthelezi



Various stakeholders during the signing ceremony

## MAYOR HANDS OVER COMPLETED WARD 1 LOSKOP PRODUCTION BOREHOLES WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The UThukela District Mayor Inkosi NB Shabalala, officially handed over the Loskop Production Boreholes Water Supply Project at Mpophomeni Community Hall Ward 1, under Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality.

The project, which was undertaken by Sydwalt Construction, focused on drilling production boreholes to provide a sustainable water supply to communities in Ward 1 of Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality. The handover ceremony took place at Mpophomeni and was attended by the Speaker, Cllr TY Nqubuka, Ward Councillor Cllr Buthelezi, Cllr Kubheka, ILM councillors, and municipal officials.

The Mayor emphasized the importance of this project in improving access to clean and reliable water supply for residents. The initiative resulted in the successful drilling of six production boreholes benefiting communities in:

- Emakekeni

- Ngodini
- Silimangamehlo
- Emadolobheni
- eMnyangweni, and
- KwaVala

In total, more than 1,000 households will now have improved access to water, and over 60 local job opportunities were created during the construction phase, supporting the local economy and empowering residents.

Mayor Shabalala expressed his concern and disappointment over incidents of theft of material that occurred during the implementation of the project. He urged the community members to work together to safeguard municipal infrastructure, highlighting that theft not only delays service delivery but also increases costs.

He commended the contractor for completing the project despite these challenges and thanked the community for their cooperation. The Mayor reaffirmed the municipality's commitment to accelerating water

service delivery and addressing infrastructure challenges across the district.

The UThukela District Municipality remains dedicated to ensuring that every household has access to clean water, which is a fundamental human right and a key driver of social and economic development.



Mayor addressing the public



## UTHUKELA DEPUTY MAYOR ADDRESSES WATER CHALLENGES IN GOODHOME



Deputy Mayor Mkhize with Induna Vilakazi listening to complaints

The Deputy Mayor of the UThukela District Municipality Cllr MC Mkhize together with Inkosi Langalibalele's Ward 7 Cllr T Mvelase convened a special community meeting to address the pressing water issues affecting the community of Goodhome. During the meeting, the leadership discussed various issues that negatively impact on the supply of the water to the residents, leaving taps dry and causing inconvenience for many people in the area.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Mayor Mkhize acknowledged the frustration and difficulties faced by the community due to the lack of water. He said it was important that they take immediate action to address these issues. He informed the residents that as UThukela District, they are mandated to provide uninterrupted water and sanitation services to the community.

He then apologised to the community for continuous water interruptions in the area and other areas in the district. Cllr Mkhize also thanked Cllr Mvelase for ending up doing the work which is supposed to be done by our workers. He said he is working

tirelessly to ensure that his community has access to water supply.

"These are just some of the challenges that need to be addressed. Another challenge is when some people have water supply but they don't care whether the next person has access to water or not. About 16 households in the area were identified as having illegal water connections whereas it was agreed that this practice should stop", said Deputy Mayor Mkhize.

He informed the public that UThukela District is not yet in a position to supply every household with water hence they want to work together with the community to resolve this. He urged them to share every drop of water until the whole challenge has been resolved.

"These underground water pipelines are drawing water from Mhubheni to supply water to this community. But there are challenges we encounter in the process. We have also planned to repair all production equipment in order to augment water supply with production boreholes", the Deputy Mayor added.

Cllr Mvelase was very critical of people who sabotage the water system. The community has requested for the extension of standpipes in order to access water closer to their homes. Cllr Mkhize urged the community to use water sparingly and to be more considerate of others. He said underground water usage is more reliable and cheaper than other methods.

He promised them that they will be sending the team to go and service more boreholes as from next Monday. He was, however, con-



cerned about theft and vandalism of infrastructure. The meeting concluded with a commitment to switch on the pump so that the residents would be able to access water supply later on that evening.