



UBUHLEBEZWE
-MUNICIPALITY-




OFFICIAL

NEWSLETTER

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 Ubuhebezwe Municipality
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UBuhlebezwe, Ubuhe bethu

MAYOR'S FOREWORD

FOREWORD BY HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR, CLLR EB NGUBO

LOOKING back at the 2022/2023 financial year, the year that will be setting behind the horizon on the 30th of June 2023, I can boldly state that I am well pleased with the way in which Ubuhlebezwe Municipality has implemented its IDP and Budget for the financial year, in spite of the challenges that face the local government sphere universally.

As a largely rural municipality – we rely heavily on the Equitable Share and the Conditional and Unconditional Grants that we receive from National Government. These grants go a long way in ensuring that our foot as the municipality is constantly on the pedal and that we are moving towards our service delivery goals. For the 2023/24 Financial, these are the Grant received.

GRANT	AMOUNT
Equitable share	R 139 317 000
MIG	R 39 499 000
EPWP	R 7 831 000
Library Cyber	R 254 000
Library Grant	R 981 000
LED Grant	R 2 000 000
(market stalls)	
Electrification	R 21 863 000
Financial Management	R 1 950 000
Grant	
Title Deeds Restoration	R 100 000
Programme	

The above-mentioned grants have conditions attached to them and as the political arm of the Municipality play the oversight role in ensure that expenditure versus service deliver are aligned. This is vital as communities depend on us to carry out our mandates as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and as per other relevant legislations.

Whilst reflecting on the

projects and programmes that our Municipality has undertaken in the financial year ending on the 30th June 2023, I thought to highlight briefly on some of the impactful initiative that were undertaken by our various Portfolios :

Gender Programs

During the month of July, which is Mens Month, we held Izimbizo Zamadoda Dialogues which started in each ward in preparation for the municipal-wide program . These dialogues gave men a platform to discuss their issues of concerns while trying to come up with resolutions that should have a positive impact on men.
By the same token I was





reminded of the Vuka Mbokodo program during Women month in August, which also started at Ward level and escalated to a Talk Show which was undertaken to address challenges faced by women, with the objective of finding solutions for these as well.

Local Economic Development

With support from Ubuhebezwe Municipality, our Cooperatives and SMME's were able to create 113 jobs, 58 of those went to females and 55 to males.

During this financial year, we spent more than R350 000, supporting emerging Crop, Piggery, Poultry and Beekeeping businesses, and we are still finalizing procurement processes to support projects for Bakers, small businesses in Forestry, Manufacturing and Tourism. These SMMES are vital for our economic growth and as such, the Municipality is committed to assisting them.

Skills Development

We assisted young people with various skills training programs; which included assistance with drivers' licenses and basic IT. More than 20 young women were trained in advanced baking skills and there were further trainings of both women and men in business management skills and agriculture production.

Moreover, we through our bursary program, we

assisted young people with Bursaries to Tertiary Institutions of their choice. We were also able to accepted 16 interns comprising of Graduates from within Ubuhebezwe and these interns are currently placed within various departments within the Municipality.

Basic Services

Over the 2022/2023 financial year, we have completed several infrastructure programs such as, 2 Multi Purpose Centres (Madungeni & Plainhill), 5 New roads and several of existing roads regavelled and maintained, 2 Sportfields (Nonkwenkwana & Xolani Vezi), 1 Outdoor Gym, 2 high mast lights and 5 areas electrified (Ntapha, KwaNothi, Makinatini, Nhlamvini, Stofel). We have repaired potholes, re-gravelled roads, repaired and maintained our facilities and to top it all we unveiled our new municipal offices.

By outlining the above I am simply trying to say, we have seen good progress this year and there is still more to be done. To all Councillors; thank you for ensuring that the work of our administration is monitored through the various portfolio committees, let us continue to put the interest of all our people in our daily duties. Our task never ceases for a moment and we must not tire in doing it.

I thank you.

OUR VISION:

To provide quality services and sustainable economic growth, within the available resources

DEBT AMNESTY, DEBT REDUCTION TO RESIDENTIAL RATEPAYERS

UBUHEBEZWE Local Municipality is embarking on a debt reduction/ discount to all RESIDENTIAL/ HOUSEHOLD ratepayers, by doing so we expect to enhance business relations, attain customer relationships, encourage the culture of payment of services, and improve collection.

The council of Ubuhebezwe Local Municipality resolved to provide this incentive as detailed below;

OPENING PERIOD:

The amnesty period will commence from 01 November 2022 until 30 October 2023 (12 Months Period)

THE STRATEGY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

FOR RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLDS WHO OWE R 30 000 TO R100 000

* R 30 000.00 TO R100 000.00 Residential Debtors

* 5% Discount on Outstanding Debt

* A 50% Upfront Payment required

* Payment arrangement of over 3 months thereafter

FOR RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLDS WHO OWE R 100 001 TO R200 000

* R100 001.00 TO R200 000.00 Residential Debtors

* 8% Discount on Outstanding Debt

* A 30% Upfront Payment required

* Payment arrangement of over 4 months thereafter

FOR RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLDS WHO OWE R 200 001 AND ABOVE

* R200 001.00 AND Above Residential Debtors

* 15% Discount on Outstanding Debt

* A 20% Upfront Payment required

* Payment arrangement of over 6 months thereafter

Customers who will pay their annual rates and service charges (12 Months rates) for 2023 between 01 November 2022 and 30 January 2023 will receive a 5% discount.

NB: The municipality urges all residential customers to take advantage of this once-off debt reduction offer. Should a customer default from the agreed arrangement, the once-off incentive scheme shall fall away.

ALL ENQUIRIES RELATED TO THE DEBT AMNESTY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS

MISS SIHLANGU/ MISS MKHIZE from the REVENUE DEPARTMENT at Ubuhebezwe Local Municipality. LANDLINE: 039 834 2362, E-MAIL: ensihlangu@ubuhebezwe.gov.za/ mpmkhize@ubuhebezwe.gov.za.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD

FOREWORD BY MUNICIPAL MANAGER, MR. ME MKHIZE

Across professions, consistency is a direct product of work ethic"; these were the words of Harsha Bhogle, a journalist, and a commentator for the sport of cricket.

I was reminded of these words when our Municipality officially launched its new state-of-the-art offices on Africa Day.

Indeed, the new offices represent a new chapter for the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality and without a doubt have injected a moral boost not only to the political leaders, but to the senior managers and all employees.

This all-encompassing boost rallies us and must and not doubt will propel us to step up our consistency in so far as our work ethic is concerned.

This can only have one outcome and that outcome has no adverse effects on the beneficiaries of the services we are mandated to deliver.

Instead, more and more strides towards growth and development would be attained and in turn we would be steered towards the municipal vision and mission.

We have been unwavering in our commitment to deliver services to all our communities, despite the challenges which included limited space before the new offices were officially unveiled.

It is like the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in our province, the Honourable, Bongi Sithole-Moloi, MPL, said during the launch of the new facility, as the municipality we must to draw strength and inspiration from the newly refurbished offices adding that with the new building in place, she has no doubt that our efforts (of delivering services) will be amplified.

Drawing from the opening line of this write up, there is no profession that does not require heightened work ethics for its success. Our task as municipalities requires determination and perseverance from all within the institutions.

The wheels of our Municipality must all turn at the same time for us to gain the desired traction.



Municipal Manager: M. E. Mkhize

For that we must all be in sync. For that we must be a well-oiled machine.

Our planning must be precise our reaction times must be improved, and our troubleshooting must be emphatic, and our energy levels must be intentional reinvigorated in order to fuel us all to ensure that our customers, which are the residents are the ultimate beneficiaries of the work we do, are more than satisfied with our output.

By this I mean to urge all our senior managers, employees, interns and temporary staff that we must be deliberate in our consistency to do our very best for the communities we serve.

OUR MISSION:

UBuhlebezwe Municipality will strive to deliver basic services to all its citizens by the year 2030, by promoting sustainable socio-economic development, through Good Governance.



UBUHLEBEZWE MUNICIPALITY UNVEILS ITS NEW OFFICES ON AFRICA DAY

IN the spirit of Africa Day, which marked the 60th anniversary of the formation of the African Union, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, extended her heartfelt congratulations to uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality on the official opening of its newly constructed offices.

The auspicious occasion, which coincided with Africa Day, signified a momentous milestone in the municipality's history.

MEC Sithole-Moloi officially unveiled the state-of-the-art building, which represents a new chapter for uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality. The new facility addresses the challenges of limited space, thereby ensuring that all essential elements, including the Council Chamber, corporate services building, and treasury offices, are incorporated.

The MEC commended uBuhlebezwe Municipality for its unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional services to the community, despite the constraints of limited space. She encouraged the municipality to draw strength and inspiration from their newly refurbished offices in

their ongoing mandate of ensuring that the lives of the people of the municipality are improved.

The modern and well-equipped building will not only set the tone for future development in the municipality but also instil confidence and boost morale amongst the staff as well as motivate Councillors to enhance their oversight roles.

MEC Sithole-Moloi expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "It is heart-warming that on this momentous 60th Anniversary of Africa Day, we also unveil the new building for the people of uBuhlebezwe. This remarkable achievement demonstrates the remarkable capabilities of us as African people. Despite operating from limited space over the years, this municipality has diligently provided essential services to its residents. With the new building in place, I have no doubt that their efforts will be amplified. The Council Chamber can now accommodate all Councilors and guests in the visitor's gallery," said the MEC.

Furthermore, MEC Sithole-Moloi extended her sincere congratulations to Mayor Bathobile Ngubo for her courageous leadership in successfully completing this significant project. As a woman



Mayor, said the MEC, Mayor Ngubo serves as an inspiration to all, showcasing the vital role that women play in driving progress and development within our communities.

The new offices of uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality in Ixopo represent a symbol of growth and progress for the entire community. MEC Sithole-Moloi pledged her full support to the municipality and encouraged them to continue their dedicated efforts in delivering services of the highest standard to the people of uBuhlebezwe.

Former Mayors were honoured during the official opening of uBuhlebezwe's newly constructed offices

"MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP WALL"

"This plaque serves to commemorate those who

have served as Mayors of the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality. History has no blank pages," said Mayor Ngubo.



CLLR C LEA COX: 1995 - 1996

CLLR M PEER: 1996 - 1998

CLLR TL MAHLABA: 1998 - 2000

CLLR DW KHUMALO: 2000 - 2004

CLLR TL MAHLABA: 2004 - 2006

CLLR NJ PETERSON: 2006 - 2011

CLLR ZD NXUMALO: 2011 - 2019

CLLR EB NGUBO: 2019 TO DATE

"Mayor Nxumalo is the longest-serving Mayor in this municipality, we celebrate him today as well," said Mayor Ngubo.



UBUHLEBEZWE PASSES 2023/2024 ANNUAL BUDGET

FOLLOWING community engagements from 11 April to 19 April 2023 across the 14 Wards and with Ward Committee Members, stakeholders and ratepayers the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality passed the overall 2023/2024 annual budget of R269 686 719 million with an operation budget of R 214 479 119 million and a capital budget of R 55 207 600 million.

The uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr EB Ngubo traversed the length and the breadth of the municipal area during the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget Izimbizo getting inputs from communities and stakeholders as per the Municipal System Act which compels municipality to annually review-

(a) The needs of the community;

- (b) Its priorities to meet those needs;
- (c) Its process for involving the community;
- (d) Its organisational and delivery mechanisms for meeting the needs of the community; and
- (e) Its overall performance in achieving the objectives referred to in subsection (1).

Presenting the budget highlights during the Council sitting recently, Cllr Ngubo outlined the budget that is aimed at assisting the various communities of uBuhlebezwe while zooming into infrastructure, youth, and economic development.

Under community programmes and/or projects, the Mayor said the Municipality has allocated funds as follows:-



PROGRAMMES	2023/2024 Financial year
Bursary Youth	R783 993.00
Disaster Management	R254 705.00
Back to School	R20 000.00
Marketing and Tourism	R492 771.00
Moral Generation	R62 820.00
Performing Arts (Arts and Culture)	R301 260.00
Community Upliftment	R417 236.00
Youth Programme	R280 700.00
HIV/AIDS Awareness	R120 420.00
Ward Committee	R2 068 917.00
Public Participation	R243 810.00
LED Projects	R4 670 940.00
LED /Tourism Forum	R10 993.00
Community Development	R1 994 968.00

The Mayor also outlined the following projects to be undertaken in the 2023/2024 financial year in various Wards:-

WARD	PROPOSED PROJECT	ESTIMATED BUDGET
01	MAHHEHLE – WEBSTOWN ELECTRIFICATION - EXTENSIONS (71 CONNECTIONS)	R 951,000
02	CARRISBROOKE-HOPEWELL ELECTRIFICATION EXTENSIONS (90 CONNECTIONS) CHIBINI-MASHAKENI EXTENSIONS ELECTRIFICATION (130 CONNECTIONS) GREERS & GROVE, HAWTHORNE, WORKSHOP ROAD AND HIGHSTREET	R 1,206 000 R 1, 742 000 R 5,250 000
03	CHIBINI-MASHAKENI EXTENSIONS (130 CONNECTIONS) MCASIMBANA ROAD MASHAKENI HIGH MAST	R 1,742 000 R 50 000 R 1 580 000
04	MARIATHAL-MANDILINI ELEC - EXTENSIONS (41 CONNECTIONS) THUBALETHU INTERNAL ROADS PHASE 2 LITTLE FLOWER TO FAIRVIEW	R 549,000 R 3,000 000 R 2,209 945.15
05	MGUNYATHI ROAD NKWELETSHE NI SPORTSFIELD SANGCWABA HIGH MAST	R 1 250 000 R 300,000 R 1,580 000
06	FANA NYATHI ROAD & ST NICHOLAS ROAD BLACK/MFEKA ROAD BHENGU ROAD HLENGWA ROAD JILI ROAD	R60 000 R90 000 R90 000 R40 000 R70 000
07	HARDWARE ROAD KWANO TH I ELECTRIFICATION PHASE 3 (142 CONNECTIONS)	R40 000 R 3,479 000
08	CHIBINI HALL ACCESS ROAD REGRAVELLING BHAKANENI ROAD ESIGCAKINI-THAFENI ELEC EXTENSIONS (150 CONNECTIONS)	R30 000 R 3,016 000 R 2,010 000
09	BAYEMPINI SPORTSFIELD PHAMBUKA HALL	R 6,380 000 R 1,267 000

10	ROMAN ROAD SCOTCHVILLE ROAD TOWNLAND ROAD SOBANTU ROAD NTABANKUZI ROAD – REGRAVELLING	R70 000 R50 000 R50 000 R 60 000 R 150 000
11	NOKWEJA ELEC- EXTENSION (30 CONNECTIONS)	R536 000
12	EMADUNGENI HALL ACCESS ROAD – REGRAVELLING PHUTHINI ROAD NTAMBAMA ROAD MAZABEKWENI HIGH MAST	R 50 000 R 80 000 R 50 000 R 1 580 000
13	NHLEWUKENI HALL HIGHFLATS ELECTRIFICATION PHASE 1 (408 CONNECTIONS) MASHUMI/MBAMBALALA ELECTRIFICATION (147 CONNECTIONS)	R 3 695 027,24 R 10 000 000 R 3 595 988.40
14	BARLEDA ROAD SKHUNYANE HALL	R 60 000 R 3 695 027,24
	MUNICIPAL EXIT - CONSTRUCTION	R 200 000

Speaking after the adoption of the budget, Mayor Ngubo said that the Municipality's budget was compiled with the intention of addressing the needs of the various communities and stakeholders directly. Moreover, the Mayor added the budget postures the resources, plans, challenges and opportunities at the Municipality's disposal. "Come the start of the new financial year, we will hit

the ground running to monitor the facilitation and the implementation of the budget and we will play our oversight role in ensuring that sound, efficient and effective implementation of the programmes and projects along with the accompanying accounting controls. We will once more go beyond and further to ensure that our people's lives are improved," added the Mayor.



THE LAUNCH OF THE YOUTH MOBILE OFFICE



DELAYED services to the Youth within the region of the Harry Gwala District will now be a thing of the past as a youth mobile office has started servicing the community in various local municipalities in the District.

Launched by the Youth Directorate under the auspices of the Office of the Premier in KwaZulu-Natal, the Youth Mobile office aims to narrow the gap as the office is here to assist the youth of the District at their doorsteps.

Fully fitted, the mobile office which is equipped with WiFi, printing machine, and laptops that will assist and service young people across the length and breadth of the District.

Amongst other services that will be provided by the mobile office are, but not limited to,

NSFAS applications, tertiary and business funding applications. The mobile office will have programmes linked to the five pillars for youth development in disadvantaged communities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT YOUTH OFFICES:

- uBuhlebezwe Municipality - Sinethemba Nkontwana (074 327 1186)
- Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality - Nqobani Mbanjwa (079 834 0075)
- UMzimkhulu Municipality - Adam Sikhosana (073 444 7983)
- Greater Kokstad Municipality - Samkele Nondize (078 011 9238)



UBUHLEBEZWE MUNICIPALITY

Youth Camp

THIS year, the Youth of uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality from various wards gathered at Nkonka Lodge to commemorate Youth Month through a summit that enabled deliberations as guided by the National Youth Day and Youth Month theme which was “Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future”.

The three-day camp started on Youth Day, 16th June 2023 and concluded on the 18th. The deliberations focused on a spectrum of opportunities for young people in the private sector, public sector, and civil society. These include employment, entrepreneurship, skills development, and youth service opportunities, as well as a range of support to assist young people to find traction in the labour market.

The Mayor of uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality,

Cllr EB Ngubo congratulated and encouraged delegates for hosting a successful youth summit. The Mayor further emphasized this historic day which was a commemoration of June 16, 1976 while she reiterated that the future of this country lies in their hands. “As a council, we welcome the resolutions as taken by this structure and further wish to emphasize that 2023 marks the 47th anniversary of the June 16 Soweto uprising. The Soweto uprising ended tragically with hundreds of young people brutally killed. This tragedy became a rallying point that inspired a nation and a people to rise up against the brutal apartheid system,” said the Mayor adding that the youth of today must emulate the grit and resilience of the youth of 76 and make them proud by being job opportunity creators, innovators and by taking this country to new frontiers.



FIRE DRILL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

HARRY Gwala District Municipality held a fire drill awareness campaign which was conducted by uBuhlebezwe Municipality Fire and Rescue Department, the aim of the awareness is to caution employees about possible fire dangers within the work environment and at their homes.

During the awareness employees were educated on how to prevent fire, to put off fire, and what to do during a fire outbreak in a workplace. Employees had an opportunity to learn how to use various fire extinguishers under different circumstances. Each fire disaster can have lasting effects, serious injuries, fatalities, devastating, and costly property damage can occur. The key to fire safety is practicing specific fire safety and fire prevention behaviors. There are

some very simple steps you can take to prevent loss of life and property from fire such as, never lock, or block fire exits or doorways, halls, or stairways. Fire doors provide a way out and slow the spread of fire and smoke. Never prop a stairway or other fire doors open. Learn your building's evacuation plans. Make sure everyone knows what to do if the fire alarm goes off. Plan and practice your escape plan. Make sure your building manager displays evacuation routes in high-traffic areas like passages. Know the sound of your building's fire alarm and display emergency numbers near all telephones. Know who is responsible for maintaining the fire safety systems. Make sure nothing blocks devices and promptly report any sign of damage or malfunction to the building management.



HARRY GWALA INVESTMENT SUMMIT



WITH the core mandate of driving the economic agenda for the entire region of the Harry Gwala District Municipality, its entity, the Harry Gwala Development Agency hosted an investment summit in Ixopo Amble Inn.

The aim of the summit was to entice potential investors to invest within the District and to deliberate on how the District should position itself to maximally attract investors as well as to practical plan and measures in place of stimulating economic growth and development.

The summit also saw the unpacking of catalytic projects and investment opportunities within the District. The summit was attended by Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo and District Deputy Mayor Cllr T.N Jojozi and uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr EB Ngubo.

The summit also included stakeholders from

the various national departments, provincial departments as well as local stakeholders.

“Local Economic Development is an approach towards economic development that allows and encourages local people to work together to achieve sustainable economic growth and development thereby bringing economic benefits and improved quality of life for all residents within the region through the District with beneficiaries being the local municipalities,” said Cllr Ngubo.

The Mayor said that Local Economic Development is intended to maximize the economic potential of all municipal localities throughout the country and, to enhance the resilience of macro-economic growth through enhanced local economic activity, employment creation, and development initiatives within the context of sustainable development.



Certificate handover ceremony for computer training graduates



THE Dr. Margaret Mncadi Library in Ixopo was the venue for the ceremony to handover certificates to candidates who completed their computer training.

The programme facilitated by the library trained eight people on a monthly basis in Computer Literacy, the first batch started in March and the programme will continue right through to the end of the year.

This programme is undertaken yearly and in collaboration with the Department of Sport, Arts,

and Culture in KwaZulu-Natal under the then “INTERNET AT YOUR LIBRARY PROJECT” through which libraries received computers to assist the public to access and use the Internet for free.

The programme has aided in incapacitating some of the Municipality’s General Workers and Security guards.

This programme saw the inception of the Cyber Cadet sector, a sector that assists library patrons with various cyber issues and facilitates training programmes.

UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY RESIDENT QUERIES

Accounts 039 834 7700 fmweli@ubuhlebezwe.gov.za	Refuse & Waste 039 834 1904 cndlovu@ubuhlebezwe.gov.za	Roads 039 834 7700 snene@ubuhlebezwe.gov.za	Service Delivery 039 834 7700 mm@ubuhlebezwe.gov.za
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HARRY GWALA DISTRICT TECHNOHUB AND ONE-STOP SHOP LAUNCHED

THE town of Ixopo, which is the seat of the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality became home to the Harry Gwala District TechnoHub and One Stop Shop following its launch by the MEC for the Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal, Siboniso Duma, accompanied by the local and District Mayors recently.

The launch of Harry Gwala District Technohub and One Stop facilities at the Harry Gwala Development Agency has been heralded as a positive step in the right direction given the economic challenges attributed to the economic downturn.

The launch also came at a time when the country is celebrating Youth Month. These facilities offered by the department's Moses Kotane Institute and Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal entities are set to ensure that communities from within the Harry Gwala District utilise these facilities free of charge.

"Our province is doing well on many fronts

and continues to improve the quality of life for many people on a daily basis, as basic services are extended on an ongoing basis." said MEC Duma.

The Moses Kotane Institute is an entity of the Provincial Government through EDTEA with a mandate to conduct world-class research into training, skills development, and provincial strategic economic sectors.

Speaking after the launch of the facilities, uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr EB Ngubo, applauded the initiative stating their location in the municipal area was important for the developmental mindedness that the Municipality has postured itself as.

"We are very happy for the beneficiaries of these facilities. All must come and make use of them maximally as they are for our people brought by their government," said Cllr Ngubo.

The Mayor said these facilities will assist, especially the youth to access ICT infrastructure and other pertinent resources.



YOUNG Women of uBuhlebezwe showcased their talents and walked away with huge prizes during the annual Uthingo Beauty Pageant held at the Peace Initiative Hall in Ixopo on Saturday, 17 June 2023.

UBuhlebezwe Local Municipality supported the

annual beauty pageant and fashion show hosted annually by Uthingolwami Youth Foundation. This year the event formed part of the National Youth Day celebration weekend. Uthingolwami Youth Foundation has an array of programmes that support young girls in dealing with life's challenges.

UBUHLEBEZWE JUNIOR COUNCIL LAUNCHED



UBUBHLEBEZWE Local Municipality recently facilitated the launch of the Junior Council, an initiative run by the municipality which aims to expose secondary school learners within the jurisdiction of uBuhlebezwe to the workings of the municipal Council.

This structure, which consists of Grade 10 learners from various high schools within uBuhlebezwe has a two-year term of office. The Junior Councillors will be able to make formal submissions to Council on youth-related issues in the Municipality and the communities they represent.

The programme offers young people the opportunity to:

- Become Municipality ambassadors
- Develop key leadership skills
- Enhance community project management skills
- Broaden their knowledge of local government
- Cultivate a culture of active citizenry

The Junior Council elected as follows:

- **JUNIOR SPEAKER - Siphamandla Mkhize,**
Ixopo High School
- **JUNIOR MAYOR - Tshireletso Moneuoa,**
Ndela High School
- **JUNIOR DEPUTY MAYOR - Abenathi Chiya,**
Sinevuso High School
- **JUNIOR CHIEF WHIP - Vuyiswa Sikhakhane,**
Ixopo Village Intermediate School



INFORMAL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IMEDP) HANDOVERS IN HARRY GWALA DISTRICT



AS South Africa rebuilds from the Covid-19 pandemic and amid the effects of economic downturn, the informal economy continues to play a key role in tackling unemployment as well as setting up the country for an economic recovery. It is the government's role to assess how these informal businesses are picking themselves up, how are they coping and what interventions can be put in place in order for them to stay afloat.

As part of the National Informal & Micro Enterprise Development Programme (IMEDP), Deputy Minister Dipuo Peters for the Department of Small Business Development was in Harry Gwala District at the Peace Initiative Hall in Ixopo. Harry Gwala District Speaker, Cllr Mdunge, uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor Cllr EB Ngubo and CEO of Harry Gwala Development Agency Ms. Whyte accompanied the Deputy Minister.

The Department of Small Business

Development in partnership with SEDA and Local Municipalities provided tools and equipment to informal and micro enterprises through the IMEDP. The IMEDP offers a 100% grant to informal businesses operating in townships and rural areas with the focus mainly on specific targeted beneficiaries such as women, youth, and PWDs. The IMEDP supports informal and micro enterprises by providing them with operational support equipment. The programme strives to accelerate growth of these enterprises by improving their competitiveness and sustainability to become formal businesses in the mainstream economy.

The aim of this initiative was to uplift business owners in the informal sector by providing them with targeted skills development and training, as well as business tools and equipment to assist them to be sustainable and competitive. A total of 24 beneficiaries from across the Harry Gwala District benefitted.

Training programme to upskill males a success



HEEDED the outcry for help with skills that would afford them job opportunities from males during Izimbizo Zamadoda dialogues, the Mayor of uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality recently awarded certificates of completion to some of the men who completed the targeted training.

The Mayor, Cllr EB Ngubo, led the occasion of handing over certificates to the male graduates who completed the small business training programme. The certificates handover was a culmination of the realization of the dialogues facilitated by the Municipality which gave men a platform to discuss their issues of concerns while trying to come up with

resolutions that should have a positive impact on men.

During Izimbizo Zamadoda men from uBuhlebezwe raised common concerns and challenges they were faced with in their households because of unemployment. Men expressed that they do not get respect at home if they do not work or do not bring money home.

As an intervention, the municipality-initiated training for men with a particular focus on business training so that they can access LED support as well as assistance from the higher education institutions in terms of advice on careers and fields they can pursue to further their development.



Career exhibition for matriculants

THE uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality recently hosted a career expo exhibition for matric learners from various high schools in the within the municipal area. The purpose of this programme is to offer the learners the opportunity to make informed decisions when they consider what field of study they opt for when registering at tertiary through interaction and in-depth engagements provided at the expo.

Learners also got the opportunity to talk to different experts in higher education institutions to get advice on careers and fields they can pursue.

This year, the programme was attended by various institutions of higher learning and stakeholders, namely Reichfield, SAPPI, SAPS, Correctional Services, Boston College, Vodacom, Lifeline, Success College, Statistics South Africa and Bringer of Light.



MAYOR URGES BUSINESSES TO INVEST IN THE HARRY GWALA MARATHON 2023

THE uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor, E.B. Ngubo has called on the domestic and international investors and businesses to continue giving support to the Harry Gwala District Marathon because it is not only about sport but it also contributes positively to the District's economy.

The Mayor, Cllr Ngubo said the Marathon has supported some local businesses as part of promoting growth amongst local businesses through government programmes such as township economy which aims to change and/or improve the conditions of small businesses.

The Marathon was held in partnership with uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, uMzimkhulu Local Municipality, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Genius Athletic Club, and other stakeholders with the main host being the Harry Gwala District Municipality. There were 459 participants entered in the race which started in Highflats (R612) to UMzimkhulu College.

This year's race was won by Jobo Khatoane from Lesotho who crossed the finish line in a time of 2:16:47, Sinethemba Tshangase (24) from uMzimkhulu came in second place at a time of 2:17:59 and in third place was Bonginkosi Mavuso who completed the race in a time of 2:19:12. Khatoane walked away with a R50 000 first prize, Tshangase took home R30 000 as a first runner-up and Mavuso walked away with a prize of R15 000.

In the Ladies race, Zinhle Shabalala won the race by running after completing the race in a time of 2:46:13, in second place Mswawenkosi Nsibande who ran-2:58:20 and in third place was Jennifer Koech who ran-3:00:04. Shabalala walked away with R50 000, Nsibande with R30 000 and Koech with R15 000.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo said it was exciting that more participants in this race were from within the District and that more youth participation was noted. "The marathon is growing each year and it is really exciting that more people from this District are entering the race. This year we saw an athlete from Mzimkhulu coming second, we are very happy for him and his family. We congratulate the winners of this race and all those that participated. Next year it will be bigger," said Mayor Nxumalo.

Athletes in this marathon shared prize money valued at more than R400 000. The Race Director Celi Makhoba also congratulated athletes. "I wish to congratulate all athletes that participated in this 2023 edition of the marathon. We also thank God as the weather was on our side which assisted athletes to run good times. Athletes received everything they needed on the route. This wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the dedication and commitment of the Organizing Committee. I would like to thank each and everyone who contributed to the success of this marathon," said Makhoba.



HARRY GWALA MARATHON RESULTS

Males 42.2 km

1. Jobo Khatoane 2:16:47
2. Sinethemba Tshangase 2:17:59
3. Bonginkosi Mavuso 2:19:12
4. Sphamandla Nkosi 2:10:20
5. Phumlani Dlamini 2:21:43
6. Siboniso Skhakhane 2:23:15
7. Mholi Jali 2:25:13
8. Mfundo Chagwe 2:25:51
9. Tsepo Mathibelle 2:25:51
10. Siyabonga Nkonde 2:26:09

35 to 39

1. Luthando Hejana 2:37:25
2. Bongumusa Zondi 2:44:54
3. Thandokwakhe Ndlovu 3:07:15

40 to 49

1. Bareng Moqett 2:36:59
2. Justice Sawana 2:45:43
3. Mkhalseni Ndwalane 2:50:38

50 to 59

1. Michael Ndlovu 2:47:03

2. Mbongeni Sosibo 2:51:06
3. Theminkosi Gumde 3:10:54

60 to 69

1. Nkosi Ndlovu 3:20:36
2. Willie Majombozi 3:37:32
3. Bongani Ndlovu 3:40:26

Women 42.2km

1. Zinhle Shabalala 2:46:13
2. Mswawenkosi Nsibande 2:58:20
3. Jennifer Koech 3:00:04
4. Likeleli Majara 3:09:27
5. Refiloe Khechane 3:10:59
6. Banele Mabizela 3:12:57
7. Nokuthula Ntshangase 3:17:17
8. Leeketseng Molefe 3:18:09
9. Leneo Lebotla 3:23:04
10. Masoabi Tsoeu 3:30:36

35 to 39

1. Masoabi Tsoeu 3:30:36
2. Zodwa Magidigidi 3:35:53
3. Nkediseng Malongoana 4:29:05

40 to 49

1. Jennife Koech 3:00:04
2. Lieketseng Molefe 3:18:09
3. Lineo Lebolta 3:23:04

50 to 59

1. Hleziphi Ncayiyana 4:12:25
2. Thokozile Zulu 5:05:29
3. Zukiswa Kula 5:18:06

21.1km Open Men

1. Ayanda Ngcobo 1:02:00
2. Siphon Mbanjwa 1:02:45
3. Lungelo Khumalo 1:02:55
4. Teboho Noosi 1:03:32
5. Kabelo Lesia 1:05:21

21.1km Open Women

1. Jenet Mbhele 1:10:31
2. Mathakane Letsie 1:15:03
3. Nomasebesti Khajoane 1:17:19
4. Reitumetse Thethana 1:18:28
5. Andisiwe Njunga 1:19:09

10km Open Men

1. Sibusiso Kubheka 28:09
2. Pakiso Mthembu 28:17
3. Sbonelo Khumalo 28:56
4. Bongukwanda Shezi 29:55
5. Mluleki Mbatha 30:03
6. Thabiso Mnculwane 30:15
7. Andile Mbatha 30:25
8. Emmanuel Seetsi 30:32
9. Sabata Elias 30:35
10. Sphamandla Goba 30:53

10km Open Women

1. Molutubete Makatishi 34:21
2. Rorisang Tlhiba 37:27
3. Inganathi Ngubo 38:12
4. Anele Ndawonde 38:35
5. Thembekele Mjwara 38:37
6. Siphokazi Nkabane 39:25
7. Amanda Nkomo 39:40
8. Refiloe Karreboos 40:36
9. Nonhle Dlamini 41:51
10. Thobeka Phungula 43:52



2023 MAYOR'S CUP AWARDS AND WINNERS





THE uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality has remained unshaken in making sports a big part of development amongst the youth and interested residents with the aim of unearthing talented young players to the forefront so that they can pursue their dreams and be an inspiration to other young people one day.

The Municipality recently hosted the 2023 Mayor's Cup, which consisted of various sporting codes, including soccer, netball, morabaraba, chess and many others.

The games played during the Mayor's Cup, said uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr EB Ngubo, are an ongoing commitment to motivate the youth through sport to ignite living healthy lifestyles, refraining from social ills and to evoke a yearning to take their talents to the next level.

"We have a lot of talented youth, and we must encourage them through such tournaments to aim for the stars," said the Mayor, adding that the games also contribute towards social cohesion as they bridge the development gap between townships and rural areas.

The winners in the various sporting fields were as follows:

KHOKHO

- Position 1 – Ward 6
- Position 2 – Ward 11

NETBALL

- Position 1 – Ward 3
- Position 2 – Ward 5

JUSKEI

- Position 1 – Ward 9
- Position 2 – Ward 7

CHESS

- Position 1 – Ward 12
- Position 2 – Ward 11

MORABARABA

- Position 1 – Ward 11
- Position 2 – Ward 9

VOLLEYBALL

- Position 1 – Ward 12
- Position 2 – Ward 2

LADIES' SOCCER

- Position 1 – Ward 14
- Position 2 – Ward 12

MEN'S SOCCER

- Position 1 – Ward 13
- Position 2 – Ward 1

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Sanelisiwe Mncwabe from Ward 5

PERSON WITH DISABILITY IN THE TOURNAMENT

- Seluleko Cele from Ward 12

BEST TECHNICAL OFFICIAL

- Njabulo Sosibo from Netball

BEST TEAM MANAGER

- Kholeka Mngema from Ward 5

YOUNGEST PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Oluhle Dlamini from Ward 9

MOST IMPROVED FEDERATION

- Netball

MAYOR'S SPECIAL AWARDS

- Mr Touch Mthethwa for his contribution to soccer development and unwavering willingness to assist young players.
- Ms Nokulunga Nene for her dedication to sports in general, she serves various sporting codes.






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Ubuhle bethu***