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Above: Speaker, Cllr. S Kulu & Cllr. L Ngasha Chairperson of Public Participation & Petition Committee leading processing of voter registration during public participation programme

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Above: Team Alfred Nzo participated in South Africa inter-municipal association (SAIMSA) games in Swaziland

**Alfred Nzo opens water taps for the first time in 25 villages benefiting about 4000 households**



Above: Executive Mayor of Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Cllr Sixolile Mehlomakhulu flanked by Councillors of the District, Traditional Leaders and community members during the official handing over of water tap in Topozo village in ward 28 of Mbizana Local Municipality during the Mayoral Imbizo Outreach that was recently organised across the district.

Alfred Nzo District Municipality Mayoral Imbizo Outreach Programme saw the opening of water taps for the first time in 25 villages, benefit more than 4000 households throughout the district.

Executive mayor Sixolile Mehlomakhulu, said the water projects which were funded through Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) to provide intermediate water solutions and interventions to rural communities with no planned long term infrastructure, saw residents of Papane, Sugerbush, Skhemane, Qhanqu, Mpoza villages in Umzimvubu; Mowa, Cola, Ngqwashu, Qiphu, Chancele villages in Ntabankulu; Stofini, Luphilisweni, Nontlanga, Topozo, Fundambini, Lucingweni and Dayimane villages in Mbizana and BlackDiamond, Zitapile, Magema, Mrwabo, NewStands and Hlwahlweni villages in Matatiele.

“These projects are valued at R110 million were allocated in terms of WSIG and has provided much needed relief as we are trying to reduce water supply backlog in the district,” said Mayor Mehlomakhulu

adding that more that they created more than 300 job opportunities for locals. Mehlomakhulu said the municipality started rolling out these projects in July last year.

Meanwhile, he also revealed that the extensive Mayoral Outreach Programme will further see the launching of new water projects of this nature in other villages to reach another 4000 households once complete. Mayor said the new to be launched projects were expected to be implemented on an average period of between 6 months to 12 months. “This is a massive boost to water provisioning in our region, particularly that we are also continuing with our long term water infrastructure development funded through Municipal Infrastructure Grant and we will be also handing over those big projects in the next few months and throughout the financial year,” he concluded.

## Foreword by the Executive Mayor



On behalf of the collective leadership of the vibrant men and women, of the entire community of Alfred Nzo District Municipality, as comprised of course by of all 4 local municipalities, through this publication, I am honoured to reach out to you, the members of community and beyond.

In terms of Municipal Finance Management Act, No.56 of 2003, as municipality, we are required by law to present performance report to the council within 30 days after the end of the quarter which started from 01 July 2018. It is with pleasure to inform you that ANDM has complied with legislation in this regard, and report was accepted by the council which set on 30 October 2018, with detailed quarterly targets and reasons for the shortfalls, as well as corrective measures.

The overall achievement in implementing Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) is 74.27% and we fell short by 26%, and much focus now is more on improving our performance to a greater percentage. A district wide Mayoral Outreach Programme of handing over Water Service Infrastructure Grant Projects (WSIG) to the value of R110 Million, saw opening of water taps for the first time to 25 villages, benefiting more than 4000 households throughout the district. In addition, a massive boost of water provision saw new water projects handed over by ANDM with the intention to benefit 4000 households once completed after a period of 6 months to 12 months.

In the quarter under review, it is with pleasure to also report reduction in veld fires within our District, though we are a disaster prone area. This reduction can be attributed to awareness campaigns conducted by our municipality to communities which led to intensification of the practices of precautionary measures.

Once again, in our commitment to create more job opportunities, it is with pleasure to inform you that our Municipality has in its course of implementing EWP programme, won three Provincial EPWP Kamoso awards in in 2017 and two EPWP awards in the current financial year 2018.

Furthermore, our Municipal Health Services won an award in the national platform as best performing municipality in environmental health. This brings pride in us as these awards are in honour of Alfred Baphethuxolo Nzo who was the first black environment health inspector, as they display impact our municipality is making on people's lives. Lastly, we once again wish all grade 12 learners the best of luck as they move towards completion of their final examination.

In conclusion, we wish to maintain that the municipality is committed to providing clean running water and providing sanitation that brings dignity to our communities as well as effective disaster management services. Let me also take this opportunity to call upon all communities to acts of vandalising public properties whenever they exercise their Constitutional Right to protest and they must do so within the parameters of the Law.

I wish to call upon our residents to utilise our customer care line

to report water leaks, outages or any other service provision complains and enquiries. The customer care line is: 086 000 3781.

I wish you well and thank you for taking your time to read our development news in this publication, you can also follow us on our social media pages: Alfred Nzo District Communicators on facebook, @alfredDM on twitter as well as our website: www.andm.gov.za.

We look forward to continue working with our communities in taking the municipal services closer to people.

Cllr. Sixolile Mehlomakhulu

### SPEAKERS FOREWORD

The council of Alfred Nzo District Municipality has a mandate to improve service delivery throughout the district by ensuring that all our stakeholders are on par with the current state of the services and the commitments we have with the rural community of Alfred Nzo municipality.



As per the national key performance indicators, we are entirely committed to the following development priorities:

Service delivery

Local Economic Development and Growth

Financial Viability

Good Governance and Public Participation

Municipal Institutional Development and Transformation.

We have just received a draft Quarter 1 report and have deferred it for scrutiny to the Municipal Public Accounts Committee. We continue as this council to ensure the provision of line of march to an administration that is clean, good, and free of faults and stains. It is a mandate we pride ourselves in to ensure an improved service delivery throughout, to provide a sound governance and viable financial state. In order for this to be realised we have ensured in the first quarter that we facilitate several capacity building sessions with our Councillors and Traditional Leaders.

We have made it our priority, as both leaders and parents of the society of Alfred Nzo to convene sessions that are aimed at ensuring that our youth, the future of this region, the young initiatives are preserved during isiko lolwaluko. Even a single death of our children we refuse to stomach and allow it. All stakeholders will constantly be engaged to ensure that we come up with viable solutions towards this.

We have had an ID Campaign and Voter Registrations in two municipalities, Mbizana and Ntabankulu. We urge our people to go out in numbers and participate in their government by choosing the calibre of leadership they need. The voting date has not yet been pronounced but it must find us all prepared and ready.

The leadership of the municipality is proud to have resolved two petitions it received from Mqhokweni in Umzimvubu and Vulindlela in Ntabankulu. We have made a vow and an oath to prioritize, register and follow up all the petitions because we acknowledge that a government is for the people, by the people.

The President of the country, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa called for patriotism and we are following in his foot -steps and getting our hands dirty by a programme launched on the 18th May 2018 known as a ThumaMina programme. We recently visited the juvenile correctional facility and we were happy to have been afforded time with the forgotten of the society and give them hope that they can be transformed. We were also afforded this opportunity as Councillors and Traditional Leaders in this council; to visit our disabled children in Nolitha Special School. It was an honour to see the smile in their faces after we had washed their dishes for the day and spent time with them. We urge the ordinary members of the public to assist us in identifying those little things that may seem insignificant but can bring a smile and comfort to those in our communities.

We have had several social cohesion programmes, in partnership

with an NGO "Right to Care and the district Moral Regeneration Movement as led by Inkosi Hlamandana and are still busy with the dialogues with all the stakeholders.

We have celebrated the birth of the nation's stalwart's Oliver Regionald Tambo who was born and bred in this district and an Imbokodo that was born in Cofimvaba Mam Albertina Sisulu. Their contribution in the struggle for democracy is written in the sands of time.

On behalf of the council, we wish all the matriculants in this district who have commenced with their examinations the best. We hope that you study hard and ensure proper rest . May you reach for the stars and continue to dream.

Enjoy this publication , and I would like to leave you with this short quote by Dr Nelson Mandela..."Those who conduct themselves with morality, integrity and consistency need not fear the forces of inhumanity and cruelty"

CLLR. S. KULU

SPEAKER OF COUNCIL

## ALFRED NZO CONTINUES SUPPLY CLEAN WATER TO ITS COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Above: Bonginkosi Tshutshane 35 year old appreciated effort of government to better the lives of community members

In its continuous efforts to increase access to water and improves the quality of lives of people, Alfred Nzo District Municipality handed over a complete water project to Topozo community, ward 28 at Mbizana Local Municipality.

"The infrastructure being handed over will provide great assistance and change to this community. We understand that you have been waiting for this day to come, but believe it or not it has come, the project is complete and you will now not share water with cows in streams and rivers, travelling long distances will be the thing of the past.. From today you will have easier access to clean water and your children will no longer been affected by health issues", said the Executive Mayor Cllr. Sixoliile Mehlomakhulu.

He further said, this water scheme project costs was R4million and 130 households of Topozo will benefit, we understand that

the village is too big and the project will not cover it as whole as there are infields that are built after the scheme has been awarded to service provider for construction but as government we will come back to those new infields informed by the ward priorities during the IDP outreaches. As the municipality it is our responsibility to provide you with clean water and improve your standard of living for better, we urge you to take care of this project, own it because its for your benefit, report people who are doing illegal connection to the municipality so that they can be punished. The government doesn't have enough money to accommodate all the villages with clean water but we are trying our level best to bring clean water to our communities, so we humbly urge you to be responsible and not vandalise the existing infrastructure" he concluded.

Bonginkosi Tshutshane a 35 year old from Topozo said, "I am excited now that the projects is complete, we are grateful for that even though it took long time to be completed but our heart are filled with joy because from today we will eat clean water and we will not travel long distance to fetch water" he said.

"We worked well with the contractor, it didn't bring us any problems. I would like to thank the fact that the project didn't only come to build water scheme but it has created job opportunities for us as youth of Topozo. Thank you Alfred Nzo for proving us with refined water ",Said Amanda Toni."

## ALFRED NZO COMMUNITY MEMBERS APPLAUSE SERVICE DELIVERY GIVEN TO THEM



Mayoral Imbizo Outreach that Alfred Nzo District Municipality recently embarked on was intended to deliver tangible spin offs of service delivery to community members of the district. This was witnessed by community members of Black Diamond in Matatiele ward 26 where water project was handed over.

This water project had benefited hundred and two (102) households, created 20 job opportunities within the village and the amount spent in the project was R244 9666.66. These projects are the intervention of government through WSIG as 07 water taps were installed and renovated other 04 old water taps that were vandalised.

Nkosi Bukelwa Ncanywa who is a member of the district council led the delegation from Alfred Nzo District Municipality that visited Black Diamond village and the community members came in number to welcome government to their village. She made a plea to community members to take care of the service delivery given to them as this will better their standard of living. Kids must not play at the water taps to prevent vandalism of the infrastructure and try by all means to work with water operator appointed within the village, she concluded.

Community member in the village Mr Skhonko Khwinana promised government that they will take care of the infrastructure as they will not be doing it for government rather for themselves and parents will play a vital role to the protection of it, he said.



Left: Mayor of Umzimvubu LM, Cllr Bulelwa Mabengu addressing community members and giving support to learners of Siyakhana Place of Safety and plant vegetables in school garden to honour the Centenary of Tata Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela and Ma Sisulu



## #100MENMARCH FOR MADIBA AND MA SISULU

100 men march recently was organised in kwa Bhaca, Umzimvubu Local Municipality. The event was a district event where various community stakeholders participated in the march singing the same song of protecting women and children from abuse. This was the response from the call made by National Government on fighting Gender Base Violence within our community members and this initiative began on the 10 July 2018 in Pretoria. Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Umzimvubu Local Municipality and Community Development Workers organised this prestigious programme. The marchers led by the Speaker of Umzimvubu Local Municipality, Cllr. Sobane Khulile Mnkwa started at Sophia Park via Engen Garage to offices of the local municipality where they handed over the pledge to the Mayor of Umzimvubu Local Municipality, Cllr Bulelwa Mabengu.

Men were saying NO violence against Women and Children. Violence against women and children must not happened under our name (Men). The Mayor received the pledge on behalf of women in the district. In the pledge, men commit themselves to play a central role on this bad tendency working with government on getting perpetrators of abuse and create a conducive environment for women and children. Local House of traditional Council representative, Nkosi Jojo from Mount Ayliff appreciated effort done by government on conducting this initiative as these scenarios really happened on their jurisdictions. He further pose a plea to government at large that this initiatives must be conducted around the district especially in rural areas, conducting awareness campaigns as most women tend

to endure abusive environment as most of them are illiteracy and depend financially to their partners.

Mr. Sindisa Langa, a 15 year old grade 11 student in Zwelakhe Senior Secondary School in Ntabankulu Local Municipality pleaded with perpetrators of abuse to stop it as that results to hinder the role parent ship to children and also it affects negatively in various ways of geographical terrain of kids to adulthood. He further praised parents not accept early marriages because a child has to undergo all stages of human before enjoying the elderly stage. Most young girls are the victims of sexual abuse because of their cold backgrounds and elderly lure them with money or any other luxurious things. That resulted to high rate of drop outs at schools and if this persist it means there are no future leaders of this beloved country, said Sindisa.

After the #100 men march, men joined Hon. Mayor of Umzimvubu Local Municipality, Cllr. Bulelwa Mabengu and Speaker, Cllr Mnkwa on 67 minutes of Tat; Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela where they handed over groceries, sanitary towels and other house hold necessities to Siyakhana Place of Safety, a place where orphans and kids that were neglected by their parents stay. Men spent their 67 minutes by planting vegetables at the centre.



Above: Mayor of Umzimvubu LM, Cllr Bulelwa Mabengu received pledge from district men who fight abuse of women and children

## ALFRED NZO COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARENESS

As part of honouring values and norms of Tatu Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela and Masisulu, Alfred Nzo District Municipality in partnership with Ntabankulu Local Municipality, Department of Safety and Liaison, South African Police Services organised sport tournament with the intentions of intensifying awareness campaign for community safety to community members of Ntabankulu. This initiative of sports against crime increases the level of full participation of youth in schools on government developmental programmes that led learners not to engage themselves on wrong doings, rather keep them healthy and open minded for the growth on educational issues. Sport against crime forms part of series activities of school safety programmes.

The recent programme took place in Ntabankulu Circuit at Nozolisisa Sport Grounds where thirteen (13) schools in Ntabankulu participated in the programme.



*Above: communities can in numbers as they were part of the safety awareness*

The main objective of these activities at schools is to broaden minds of learners, fighting ill-discipline amongst themselves and focus on education to pave their way to brighter future.

Councillor Sandile Sello, Portfolio Head of Community Development Services encouraged learners to act wisely to determine their future as they are the leaders of this rainbow nation. He further encouraged learners that, not all the learners are coming from the warm backgrounds, some parents are living on poverty but they are trying by all means

to take their kids to school as hopes are on their kids to bring back the warmth to their homes.

To achieve those hopes of parents, learners must stay away from drug consumptions or any other related substances to keep the pride of parents. Stealing of school assets, vandalising and also showing ill-discipline behaviour in the school environment even in community environment won't take them anywhere in future rather seeing themselves struggling for the rest of their lives, he concluded. He committed full support of the programme by Alfred Nzo District Municipality and took a sit by saying 'Imfundo lilifa elingenakuthathwa nangubani na emntwini'.

The champions of the tournament received full kit and Trophy in netball and soccer whilst runners up received medals and balls. Izinyosini Senior Secondary School became the champions of the tournament in Soccer and Mnceba High school scooped championship for Netball.

## MOWA AND VULINDLELA VILLAGES SET TO GET TAP WATER FOR THE FIRST TIME

As part of honouring values and norms of Tatu Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela and Masisulu, Alfred Nzo District Municipality in partnership with Ntabankulu Local Municipality, Department of Safety and Liaison, South African Police Services organised sport tournament with the intentions of intensifying awareness campaign for community safety to community members of Ntabankulu. This initiative of sports against crime increases the level of full participation of youth in schools on government developmental programmes that led learners not to engage themselves on wrong doings, rather keep them healthy and open minded for the growth on educational issues. Sport against crime forms part of series activities of school safety programmes.

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*Above: Member of the mayoral committee Cllr Sandile Sello, ward Councillor of the area Cllr Sophaqa, members of the mayoral committee as well as PMU Manager handing over certificates to the ward councillor as a sign that the project can kick-start*

themselves and focus on education to pave their way to brighter future.

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## GOOGLE LAUNCHES DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN ALFRED NZO



Above: Executive Mayor of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality delivering the key note address at the launch of google digital skills

Alfred Nzo Development Agency in partnership with Lindamahle Management Systems, a partner to Google Africa, launched the Digital Skills Development Programme that will be assisting in boosting socioeconomic status of the Alfred Nzo District.

The launch took place at Ingwe TVET College KwaBhaca with the aim of capacitat-

ing the SMMEs in form of training which included basic information about getting businesses online, helping business owners understand analytics, and gain insight into how certain posts are performing and what works best.

Speaking during the launch Executive Mayor, Cllr. Sixolile Mehlomakhulu said the initiative will enhance the skills of Ingwe TVET College students since “we’re living in a digital world. “We urge students at large as well as surrounding communities to look after the infrastructure so that the upcoming generation as benefit”.

Meanwhile the Chief Executive Officer of the Lindamahle Management Systems Zanele Nkukhwana said their role was to train unemployed youth on digital literacy, embark on outreach and offer skills that will benefit people in accessing online

job opportunities.

She also said she was proud to say that Lindokuhle Management Systems is an accredited Information Communication System (ICS) which is owned by the women.

Universal Access Agency of South Africa (USAASA) Chief Executive Officer Lumnko Mtimde said they are responsible for signal distribution services of the Corporation and to them it's all about connecting you to the world and connecting the world to you.

In his conclusion he said they will be providing free WI-FI to the Ingwe TVET College students for the next twelve (12) month #InternetForAllCompaign. The initiative is a first of its kind and is expected to roll-out in the entire province of the Eastern Cape.

## ALFRED NZO TO LAUNCHES R33 MILLION WATER PROJECT IN MBIZANA



Above: delegated by the executive mayor, Cllr Msokana who is portfollo head for corporate services delivering the keynote address during the mayoral Imbizo outreach in Mbizana

As part of Mayoral Imbizo outreach Alfred Nzo District Municipality launched more than R33 million water reticulation projects that will benefit 1 772 households of Ward 04 in Mbizana.

Speaking during the launch Portfolio head for Corporate Services Cllr Msokana who was delegated by the Executive Mayor said these initiatives are part of the programmes that the District is undertaking in honour of Nelson Mandela as well as Albertina Sisulu since their 100th year birth day.

“ We have a role to play as government to ensure that we change lives of communities for the better by giving them basic services such as water and



Above: communities of ludeke village listening attentively at the official handover of water project

electricity” said Msokana.

Once complete, the multimillion rand water reticulation of Ludeke Dam which is known as Greater Mbizana Water Supply Scheme will bring clean water to villages of Sikhumbeni, Ludeke and Sikelweni.

The project, is funded through Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), and will also create 150 job opportunities for local communities.

The scope of the water project will include construction of concrete break pressure reservoirs, construct pipelines and 115 tap stands and the project is estimated to be accomplished after 12 months.

## STOFINI COMMUNITIES DRINK TAP WATER FOR THE FIRST TIME

It was a memorable day for a 60 year old , Mrs Thelelwa Myengo who used to travel a long distance to fetch water so that she can cook for her five (5) children. “I never open a tap water before in this village, this is day I will never forget in my life I also commit myself that I will be one of the Parents who will be ensure that taps are not vandalised by children.

Meanwhile Siphelele Tita who is 25 years from the same Village said during the construction phase he benefited a lot as he managed to renovate his home and put food on the table. “We were treated well from the first until the last day thank you to Alfred Nzo District Municipality” said Siphelele.

These are the words from the villagers during the official handover of water taps to Stofini communities. Speaking on behalf the Executive Mayor, Inkosi Sontsi said government is working hard so ensure that communities drink credible water. “We would like to acknowledge communities of this village for being so patient because living without running water is not easy thing to do” headed. More than twenty (20) job opportunities were created in the village during the contraction.

## ADDRESS HARVESTING & IEC REGISTRATION COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Community centricity and participation can be achieved through integration of government development initiatives with communities as part of consultation and decision making. Office of the Speaker in partnership with its municipalities, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Department of Home Affairs embarked on a outreach aimed on educating communities on voter registration, verification of addresses, encouraging those who are not registered to register and those who not yet collected their smart ID cards and those who still not changed their green bar coded ID to smart cards to apply for them.

This outreach was recently organized in Mbizana Local Municipality Greenville, ward 21 and in Ntabankulu Local Municipality, Fort Donald ward 17.

The Speaker of the led the delegation in Mbizana where he address fully packed community hall and clarify the importance of changing their Green Bar Coded IDs to Smart Cards, registering the names on voters roll to IEC and also on what to do when a person is in a voters poll. The platform was created with the intensions of clear and direct engagement with community members as part of participation and also putting them at the center of government developmental programmes that will better their lives.

Meanwhile the Office of the Speaker also conducted another identity document campaign and voters education at Ford Donald Village ward 17 Zola Community Hall in Ntabankulu Local Municipality. Department of Home Affairs and Independent Electoral commission (IEC) representatives were also part of the campaign which seek to educate youth and elderly on the importance of registering to vote as well as encourage them to do smart ID cards.

Speaking on behalf of the Speaker, Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) chairperson Cllr Makhaya Twabu said its time for people to register to vote since it's their right to do so. "In the past we didn't have a right to vote let us use this opportunity especially to the youth,



Above: Speaker Cllr. Simthembile Kulu addressing community members of Greenville village in Mbizana, ward 21.



Above: Speaker of the District, Cllr S. Kulu and Cllr Lonwabo Nqasha, Chairperson of Public Participation and Petition Committee assisting on the voter registration in Greenville Community Hall



Above: Mrs. Noluthando Ntshulana From Department of Home Affairs encouraging community members to apply Smart Card Identity Documents from Green Bar Coded Identity Documents



Above: communities of Fort Donald at the voters education in Ntabankulu Local Municipality

by registering to is the people's rights as it assist government to do allocation of budget as per municipalities and also as the voice of their service delivery concerns as per their residing and participate on voting" said Twabu.

## 88 YEAR OLD FOTIWE NOGAYA NOW GET WATER AT HER GATE



Above : official opening of tap water by Fotiwe Nogaya & portfolio head for IDMS Cllr Pulelo Mohale

Cola communities were very excited to benefit from the credible water scheme which was officially handed over by Alfred Nzo District Municipality, this was witnessed by an 88 year old Fotiwe Ethel Nogaya who stays with her granddaughter. "We've been waiting for this moment to arrive since we had no water for a long time thank you to our government." said Nogaya.

She also said that her granddaughter was always at school most of the time; so she can be able to carry a small bucket of water since the water tap water is just

nearby her gate.

Councillor Pulelo Mohale delegated by the Executive Mayor Cllr. Sixolile Mehlokhulu led a delegation that handed over water scheme to communities of Cola ward 05. Cllr Mohale is the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) as well as the Portfolio for Infrastructure Development and Municipal Services (IDMS).

He encouraged communities to take care of the scheme and vandalism will not be tolerated. Cllr. Mohale also said that the Municipality is striving to overcome the

backlog that the District is currently facing by providing communities with boreholes as an intervention.

Meanwhile a 51 year Nozenzile Jikijela hails from the same Cola village said it's like she is dreaming as she cannot believe that today they are receiving clean water. "We used to share water with animals sometimes you find dirty water and you wouldn't even know what to do but today its all the thing of the past." said Jikijela. The projects amounts to R 2, 154 122.11 and fifteen (15) jobs opportunities were created during the contraction to communities of and approximately hundred and sixty two (162) household that benefited from the water scheme.

Mzuthule Mqala said he was one of the luckiest to get employment during the contraction of the project and this is what he had to saying to Alfred Nzo News team: "The project has made a huge impact as I have managed to buy school uniform for my kids and be able to put bread on the table for my family as well. He concluded by saying today we are witnessing a history in making but also urge our government to fast-track electrification of the village since they have started already.

## QHANQU HAS RUNNING WATER

Drinking credible water is a basic right for communities, this was witnessed by Qhanqu Villagers in Umzimvubu Local Municipality after portfolio head of Infrastructure Development and Municipal Services (IDMS) Cllr Polello Mohale handed over water project as they were struggling to get water in the area.

The handovers of water projects were done during the Mayoral Imbizo Outreach across the district as part of honouring and celebrating centenary year of Mama Sisulu and Tata Mandela because of the role they played in advancing the democracy that we are enjoying today.

Addressing a fully packed community hall, Cllr Mohale appreciated the patience done by community members as they didn't demolish other infrastructure projects within their area fighting to get water. Government is aware about challenges community members facing to



Above: Vivian Mtshantshu opening tap water as well as member of the mayoral committee councillors and traditional leaders in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality

better their lives but the district municipality rely on getting grant from National government as the district municipality is having low income in revenue, he said. He further plead with them to protect their infrastructure and taking care of the taps brought to them.

This is an intervention as we are still waiting for Ntenetyana dam to be completed so that communities of this

ward can be catered, I also want to make a plea to communities that illegal connection will not be tolerated because it will result water in shortage water in the area, he concluded.

Vivian Mtshantshu (79) said she is proud of the positive service delivery spin offs in their area and applaud effort done by the district municipality. She promised to work with community members at large to take care the infrastructure as they don't want to taste the life of the past as they were fetching water in the streams travelling distances, she said.

Leonardo Qulu (28) said its great time to their community to get clean water from taps, because it was a long time their families cooking and drinking water from the river and streams and that would have resulted to community members to get sick and the thing of travelling long distances will be the thing of the past.

## CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY DURING THE MPONDO CULTURE AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL

People from various walks of life and from parts of the world and the nation converged to Ntabankulu, the scenic and mountainous part of the Mpondo Kingdom South Africa, which is surrounded by the great and magnificent Mzimvubu River to celebrate the Mpondo Culture and Heritage Festival.

The Festival was launched in 2006 in commemoration of Nkosi Ntsikayezwe Sigcau (1947-1996), an ANC activist and stalwart, who made a meaningful and significant contribution in the liberation struggle of South Africa.

The annual Mpondo Culture and Heritage Festival is an important event that was established for the preservation and promotion of the values and way of lives of the Mpondo people as well as promotion of unity in a diversity of cultures, and has grown throughout the years since it was initiated, with esteemed dignitaries turning up to grace the occasion, as it is expected for this year as well. In its inception, it was the first of its kind in the Eastern Cape and continues to promote cultural diversity. It also exposes Eastern Cape diverse cultural and traditional heritage.

Mayor of Ntabankulu Local Municipality Cllr Tsileng Sobuthongo said they are proud to have a heritage festival of this magnitude which also attract tourism in the area as well playing a huge role in the economy of Ntabankulu. She also said that the Municipality will honour the role played by Nkosi Ntsikayezwe Sigcau with developing an area with a multi –purpose centre so that government service can be closer to communities of Lwandlobomvu. Honourable Mayor Sobuthongo concluded by saying a statue that resembles Nkosi Sigcau will be erected in the area as a sign of respect because of the role he played during trying times.

The festival also seek to share and develop Mpondo culture, history and heritage, promote tourism, rural and cultural development, attract investment and promote unity in a diversity of cultures.



Above: Nkosi Ntsikayezwe Sigcau leading the proceedings after the Mpondo Cultural kick-off.



Above: Mayor of Ntabankulu local Municipality Tsileng Sobuthongo at the Mpondo Cultural Heritage



Above: dignitaries as they enter at the venue for the Mpondo Cultural heritage in Ntabankulu

Since 2018 is declared the year of the liberation icons the late President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu and also the year mama Winnie Mandela passed on, this year's festival was dedicated to their selfless sacrifices in fighting for a free and united South Africa, through the theme, "unity in a diversity of cultures: celebrating as one, sharing our

diverse cultures".

Culture Ambassador and well known musician from Botswana Casper the Golden Voice who is the recipient of the King Jongilizwe Sigcau International Award 2014 and Ms Verena Gauthier CEO of Impulse an NGO based in Switzerland, recipient of the Princess Stella Sigcau II Award 2012, a humanitarian whose work has touched many lives all over the world including the Mpondo Kingdom led their respective delegations from their relative countries to the Mpondo Kingdom to share their cultures and also celebrate with amaMpondo.

Representatives from various Kingdoms and Chieftainships including Pedi, Ndebele, Swati, Hlubi, Zulu, Shangaan, Tswana, Xesibe, Sotho, Thembu, Xhosa, Bhaca, and tourists as well dignitaries including members of the diplomatic corps, government and business are expected to attend. The Festival was preceded by the Mpondo Reed.

## SWALIZAND HOSTED SUCCESSFUL SAIMSA GAMES



Above: Team Alfred Nzo netball as after they played very well beaten on semi-final by Ethekewini Municipality

Local Municipalities of Swaziland hosted at least 50 south African Development Community (SADC) counterparts in weeklong 2018 South Africa inter-municipal association (SAIMSA) games. Matsapa Municipality Public Relations Officer who is also the spokesperson games Babhekile Dlamini said municipalities brought an estimate of more than 4 000 participants (Municipal employees) who participated in various sporting codes including soccer, netball, volleyball, poll table, tennis, darts.

The games were played in various venues where the Team Alfred Nzo managed to represent the District with dignity, things did not go according to plans as soccer team was knocked on group stages, Meanwhile netball, tennis and poll table fought tooth and nail as they managed to come back home with medals. Netball team started the games on high note as they beat everything that was in front of them.

As the tournament continues it got tougher and tougher but the girls managed to reach semi-finals of the SAIMSA games 2018. Speaking to their coach Phezile Gamede after they were beaten by EThekwini Metro said I'm so proud of the Girls it has been a fruitful journey for

us because the results speak of for itself.

"It was too hot and my players couldn't adjust as well as the fatigue on my players because playing more than three 3 games a day is not child's play. He said. As a coach I would like to thank all stakeholders, management and council of the district as we as the local municipalities throughout the journey, our plan is to play final next year" he concluded

President of SAIMSA Sam Rametse said it's a memorable year of sports among municipal employees from the SADC region. He thanked the Minister of Housing and Urban Development Phiyayinkhosi Mabuza, for allowing the country's municipalities to host this year's games.

"We are very proud to be in the Kingdom of Eswatini for the SAIMSA games of 2018. We have no doubt that the country has benefited hugely from hosting this event as we have seen previously that visitors to the host nation always contribute positively to the economy," he said. Team Alfred Nzo tennis after played a very important role as they also represent the district with dignity. As games continues they have managed to grab silverware. The next years SAIMSA games will be hosted by Ethekewini Metro.



Above: Team Alfred Nzo Tennis during the SAIMSA games in Swaziland, as they showcase their medals



Above: Team Alfred Nzo Netball in action at the SAIMSA games in Swaziland

## OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER VISITING SPECIAL SCHOOLS



Above: Nolitha Special School learners and school personnel took a group photo with the municipal delegation in the dining room after having the meal.

Office of the Speaker of Alfred Nzo District Municipality led by Cllr. Simthembile Kulu intensifies its roles and responsibilities of public participation programmes by reaching to all spheres of communities in order for them to take part on government developmental programmes and at the same time engaging with them to understand their needs and programmes achieved to develop their standard of living.

Recently Cllr. S Kulu, Speaker of the district led the delegation of District Mayoral Committee Members & traditional leaders visiting Nolitha Special School in EmaXesibeni. The objectives of the visit was to engage with school on developmental programmes government assisted with in the schooling environment and also challenges they still facing to uplift their environmental standard.

The principal of the school, Mrs Nomakhwezi Iris Njejana was astounded with happiness as the school welcomed the municipal leadership with warm arms for the visit of Political Leadership in their premises as such visits are not often. The visit to the school will assist some learners on their studies to know what is happening on government developmental programmes on their local sphere. The objectives of the visit will create open minds to learners on developmental programmes and uplift their creativeness on their hand works they produce in the

school, she said.

As the school we still need washing machines, assistance on overcharging on electricity and water bills usage as they have high volume of learners attending the school coming from disadvantage background, the school caters special kids with different disabilities, she further made a plea for the Special Programmes Unit of the municipality, Department of Social Development and Special Programmes including department of Health to have a constant visits to the school and have their own assessment in order for them to assist school teachers about any new developments to their learners so that they can act quickly.

Some of them participate in choral music, sports and other codes trying to keep them active with fresh minds. Due to activeness to the mentioned activities, the school has trophies in its cabinets, she said.

Speaker of the district the school that the visit will be continuous and challenges they face as the school, they will try to develop action plan that will come with the resolutions of their challenges.

The leadership getting their hands dirty as they entered the kitchen assist on feeding the learners and clean dishes after meal. Visiting the centre where hand works are being done by the learners and shown trophies received by the school.



Above: The delegation from Alfred Nzo District Municipality led by the Speaker, Cllr Kulu visited Nolitha Special School



Above: Speaker, Cllr S. Kulu & Portfolio Head of Community Development Service, Cllr. S Sello cleaning dishes after feeding learners at Nolitha Special School



Above: Mrs N. Njejana, the principal of Nolitha Special School showcasing trophies the school won on different activities to the municipal leadership

## THROUGH THE LENSES



Above: Team Alfred Nzo soccer warming up ahead of the match, they didn't play according to expectations as they failed to reach the knock-out stages of the games.



Above: Team Alfred Nzo Volley ball posing for camera, ready to play their last game and they were knocked in the early stages of the tournament



Above: Speaker of the Council accompanied by members of the mayoral committee, councillors and traditional leaders during the visit at Nolitha Special school in EmaXesibeni



Above: Amongst the dignitaries in the official opening of Mbodleni Methodist church of south Africa include the MEC for Finance honourable Mabuyane, Executive Mayor Cllr Mehlamakhulu, honourable Mayor Cllr Mabhengu.



Above: Executive Mayor Cllr Sixolile Mehlomakhulu tabling quarter one (1) report 2018/19 in the ordinary council meeting at Council chamber



Above: Portfolio head for corporate services Cllr Msokana leading a delegation that handed over a contractor for water project at Qhiphu village in Ntbankulu local Municipality



Above: Portfolio head for Infrastructure development services and municipal services (IDMS) Cllr Mohale during the Mayoral Imbizo outreach



Above: left-right: Portfolio head for CDS Cllr Sello Senior Manager for CDS Mrs. Ngxenge and Portfolio head for SACRH during the Talk to your portfolio Radio programme



Above: Office of the chief whip conducted a study group on expropriation of land without compensation in Ntbankulu Local Municipality



Above: Speaker of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality Cllr Simthembile Kulu at the taxi / bus rank activation at KwaBhaca Umzimvubu Local Municipality



Above: A 88 old Fotiwe Nogaya from Cola Village testing tap water just after the official handover of water project



Above: Communities of hillside in Matatiele gathered at komkhulu during the official introduction of the contractor for water project



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