

EZOTHUKELA NEWS

UThukela on roadshows with draft IDP and Budget

UThukela District Deputy Mayor Cllr NW Mchunu accompanied by Okhahlamba Local Municipality Cllr Vilakazi and Cllr Mfuphi and officials delivered the Draft IDP & Budget Presentation 2019/20 to the first round of IDP to stakeholders in Bergville Sports Complex. This engagement was amongst the many initiatives made by government since the democratic dispensation.

The purpose of such consultations is to ensure that all interested and affected stakeholders make inputs to the 2019/20 Draft IDP and Draft Budget. The Deputy Mayor delivered the draft documents to the stakeholders which included Ward Committees, Sector Departments, Organized Businesses and Ratepayers.

Addressing the audience stakeholder, the Deputy Mayor mentioned that this was still the draft budget, meaning that community requests, suggestions etc. is of major importance and will be taken into consideration before the actual budget gets approved by Council.

She also made it known that our budget does not operate in silos but it is aligned with all spheres of Government in order to ensure that they speak in one voice. The community was encouraged to eliminate waste water in all ways possible since there is an outcry that most of the treated water goes to waste due to standpipe leaks that don't get reported by communities concerned in time.

The Deputy Mayor also conceded that uThukela faces challenges in terms of revenue collection, aging infrastructure, population density versus current infrastructure, the issue of Woodstock Dam feeding Gauteng residents, electricity tariffs, etc. but make a commitment that uThukela is currently working closely with relevant Departments to resolve the issues that require resolutions.

"Even during these tough economic times, uThukela District Municipality still strives to hire staff members through Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) and also ensures that in every financial year, interns from almost all wards get trained and receive incentives. Budget copies with attached monetary values are available on request from the office", concluded Cllr Mchunu.

In another community meeting, the Speaker Cllr PG Strydom also delivered the same Draft IDP & Budget. The Speaker was in Ward 09 of Okhahlamba Local Municipality at Zwelisha area. Amongst other issues mentioned in the budget was the allocation of R 3 million for the community which will refurbish filters for water pumps and also improve the water infrastructure which will enhance the delivery of water to the community.

"However, what destroys water facilities is some communities who have connected illegally to the water systems. Further to that this affects water pressures and ultimately water supply to the community", said the Speaker. She then pleaded with the community to fight illegal water connections and to protect their own facilities. The UThukela District Municipality also has committed to, as a short to medium term solution, refurbish and erect boreholes in order to ensure access to water for the community.

In building transformed communities, the UThukela District Municipality continues to create platforms for public participation. The issues raised by the community have been captured for the purpose to make amendments to the drafts in order to ensure the will of the people is done.



Deputy Mayor Cllr NW Mchunu with Cllr Vilakazi and Cllr Mfuphi from Okhahlamba LM

In This Issue

- UThukela IDP & Budget roadshows
- Contractors appointed in Ekuvukeni
- Appointment of spring protection contractors
- Works progress,
- Addressing water challenges, and more.....

Appointment of contractors to do work in Ekuvukeni

Following the community protest that took place in Ekuvukeni with regards to service delivery and subsequent stakeholders meeting to mitigate the situation, uThukela District Municipality has appointed three service providers to undertake construction works in the area. This was announced during the stakeholders meeting that was held in the Alfred Duma satellite offices in April.

Announcing the contractors, the Acting General Manager for Water and Technical Services department Mr Sanele Zikalala mentioned that Klomak Contractors have been appointed to refurbish the sewer plant that was vandalised some time ago. About R 3.5 million has been allocated for this project. It is also envisaged to create at least three job opportunities for the locals.

Another contractor appointed was SBT who will do sewer and water pipelines construction. An amount of about R 3.8 million has been injected towards the project. This project is expected to create about 12 job opportunities for the locals. Once the above has been achieved UThukela District will be able to isolate water and sewer pipelines from running parallel.

Umgeni Water was appointed to drill five production boreholes which will assist to supplement water supply in the system. The project is budgeted for R 7.2 million and will create about 10 job opportunities for the unskilled labour. The project will also play a critical role in enabling the community to receive water frequently as opposed to the current schedule that they have which is three times a week.

All these three projects are going to take up to three months each to complete. The contractors are currently on-site hard at work. With these interventions it is hoped that it will assist to bring the situation in the area back to normality. Let us grow South Africa together.

UThukela appoints spring protection contractors

Once again, the people's needs were put first as UThukela District Deputy Mayor Cllr NW Mchunu and administrative team introduced the spring protection project to the community of Brymbela area near Estcourt.

"The protection of natural water resources is a priority to the district. Not everyone has access to clean, treated and potable water. In the presence of such natural resources this will go a long way. They also provide good and equitable sanitation," said the Deputy Mayor

Water from springs will assist the community to access to clean natural water. And the springs have never run dry for so many years and will sustain the community for many years to come. She also reminded the community that the idea behind the IDP Budget meetings that were recently held was to give people a chance to make inputs and comments in terms of their needs.

"The project we are bringing here will also create temporary job opportunities for the locals," said the Deputy Mayor.

The contractor that will be undertaking project is Springs Protection and Appurtenant Works. The project is envisaged to create about 10 temporary jobs for the locals. It is also expected to take up to six months to

complete. An amount of over R 3.5 million has been allocated for the project.

In another activities of the day UThukela District team led by the Speaker Cllr PG Strydom who was accompanied by Chief Whip Cllr S Dlungwane and Cllr Dlangala proceeded to Nkosana Community Hall, in Ward 2 of Inkosi Langalibalele municipality to introduce another contractor.

The Speaker also introduced Sydwalt Construction who will deal with three Spring protection projects and 15 stand pipes that will supply water to Emandabeni community. Seven temporary job opportunities are expected to be created.

Chief Whip Cllr S Dlungwane, Ward Cllr N Mpembe and the team of officials were also engaged in similar activities this time in Ward 3 where they introduced the same service provider to do springs works.

Addressing the community Cllr Dlungwane said only one spring protection will be carried out and five stand pipes will be installed for now to supply water to Nyezane community. He further said there will be only seven temporary job opportunities expected to be created by the project.

The last round of activities of the day was held in Ward 1 in Emadolobheni area where the Speaker Cllr Strydom and Ward Cllr Mgaga introduced the contractor to the community. The contractor will undertake the spring protection works, install two 5000l Jojo tanks and five stand pipes.

The Speaker said the project is expected to create about 10 temporary job opportunities for the locals. It is also envisaged to take up to six months complete.



Speaker Cllr Strydom addressing the audience

Ekuvukeni projects move towards completion

There is progress in Ekuvukeni with regards to the contractors appointed by uThukela District Municipality to undertake certain projects to mitigate the service delivery protest. The refurbishment of the Oliphantskop Water Treatment Works (WTW) to increase capacity to meet demand of 12Ml/day is underway. The contractor was appointed and introduced to community at the beginning of April.

A project to replace old asbestos pipeline with new PVC-O pipeline from WTW to Zandbuilt Reservoir and refurbishment of booster pump station is in progress. The contractor was appointed and work will commence after completion of establishment. Old pipeline will be in operational during the construction of the new pipeline. The new pipeline will be commissioned once the WTW upgrade is completed.



**CUSTOMER CARE
NUMBER**

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DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

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.

All queries that are logged, will be issued with a reference number.

Repairs of water leaks and installation of Bulk Zone meters is also continuing. The project is currently on a planning stage and will be implemented after completion of WTP and new pipeline. The project will assist in reducing water leaks for the entire Ekuvukeni area. Business Plan for this phase to be submitted to the Departments of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

There is another project to develop ground water in order to augment current supply and to be used for emergency water supply. The contractor that was appointed has now finished with drilling five production boreholes. Water sample was sent to Umgeni Laboratory.

ry. This project involved siting, drilling, testing and equipping borehole and to ensure backup or emergency water supply.

The project is planned for completion during the current financial year 2018/19. About 19 boreholes were identified which will be strictly at Ekuvukeni and will be connected direct to the existing network. We anticipate eight weeks to finish this project. Another contractor was appointed to install the new 2,5km ring feeds pipeline that isolate water and sewer and connect to household using standpipe.

The 800 meters of pipeline is now complete. This project aims to eradicate the challenges of sewer that contaminate water by isolating water and sewer pipelines. There is also another project to refurbish existing waste water treatment works, do mechanical and electrical repairs which is currently underway.



Refurbishment of sewer plant that was vandalised

The contractor is still on-site and is on schedule as per the programme. It is hoped that once these projects are completed, things will get back to normality.



Installation of water pipelines that will separate sewer and water lines

Public notice regarding illegal connections

The public is hereby notified that uThukela District Municipality is a Water Services Authority municipality predominantly responsible for providing potable water and appropriate sanitation services to the residents of uThukela District as mandated by Section 1 of the Water Services Act No. 108 of 1997.

Over and above the aforementioned function, uThukela District Municipality is responsible for other important functions such as Disaster Management, Local Economic Development and the provision of Municipal Health Services or Environmental Health Services. As a Water Services Authority, uThukela District Municipality administers Water Services By-laws.

This notice serves to inform all water consumers that it is against the Water Services By-laws to connect water illegally, that is without being authorised by uThukela District Municipality to do so. Any person found tampering with water infrastructure will be charged in terms of Section 34 (1) and 58 (1) of the uThukela Water Services By-laws. Spot fines may be issued or legal proceedings may be pursued against the culprits.

The community is advised to apply for water connection at uThukela District Municipality offices and for more information, this Call Centre number **086 010 4257** may be called.

UThukela District Mayoral Slot

As a means of keeping the community abreast with the information regarding programmes that are in the pipeline as well as those undertaken by uThukela District Municipality, media play a pivotal role in terms of information cascading.

We utilize the services of our local community radio station Nqubeko FM to reach our target audience. The programme itself is called **uThukela Nezalo**, is run once a month on the last Thursday of the month between 18:00 and 19:00. Catch us live on Nqubeko FM 100.5 for the latest news, views and interviews!



UThukela addresses water challenges facing the communities

UThukela District Chief Whip Cllr S Dlungwane accompanied by Ward Cllr Khulu and the team of officials visited Ward 31 under Alfred Duma municipality to address the community on water related issues. Such meetings are aimed at providing solution on the issues of water challenges in the district. Communities are concerned about water shortages in the area.

Cllr Dlungwane mentioned that uThukela District Municipality is responsible for three local municipalities which consist of 74 wards in total, and that the District must ensure that all communities have access to potable water. He also emphasized that it is our mandate as the municipality to supply water to the people.

He further stated that in Ward 31 the community reported four broken and neglected hand pipes and that they will be fixed. There are also plans in place to drill and fix more boreholes to enable the community to have access to water. Cllr Zulu then promised to dispatch water tanker while the work of fixing boreholes continues.

By midday the team headed to Nkomane area to continue with its community engagement meetings. The team went there to tackle water issues affecting this community. Addressing to the community Cllr Dlungwane said he was there to engage with the community on issues relating to water, sanitation, disaster management and economic development. He said due to climate change disasters are happening now and again.

Cllr Dlungwane emphasised that the municipality is committed to providing decent and hygienic sanitation facilities to all to restore human dignity. On water provision he said the municipality supply water to community through the means of piped water, boreholes, protected springs and water tankers as emergency response. Cllr Dlungwane made a commitment that all broken boreholes that were reported will be fixed soon. The community members were grateful that Council is developing their community as they had suffered a lot especially with water shortages. Let us to grow South Africa together. #Khawuleza



Cllr Zulu looks on while Cllr Dlungwane addressing the community

UThukela District Municipality brings you current news

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