

Media Statement

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UTHUKELA DISTRICT WORKING TOGETHER WITH MACANDA COMMUNITY TO PROTECT SPRINGS AND SUPPLY WATER

Provision of safe and adequate water supply is among the most top priority in community welfare. As such, safe drinking is fundamental to improving standards of living for people. Today, UThukela District Municipality, led by Municipal Manager Mr Langelihle Jili and officials visited Macanda area in Ward 3 of Okhahlamba municipality. This was to fulfill the mandate of UThukela which is to provide safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities.

The meeting that was held at Sokesimbone High School where Mr Jili addressed the community of their being there. “We are here as per the Mayor’s request to meet with you the community of Macanda to discuss issues related to water and service delivery. We all know that there’s a spring protection programme that was undertaken by the UThukela District Municipality to supply water to the community. We are working to ensure the community is assisted by all means to draw water from the springs”, Mr Jili alluded. This area has been struggling with water shortages in recent years due to lack of access and inadequate water facilities.

To sustain local livelihoods and provide essential water resources for rural communities, it is crucial that natural springs in this area are protected. Access to potable water remains limited in the area. These springs are thus the safety net that allows rural people to continue to live and access water. The community has identified springs right up in the mountains and they have tried ways and means to distribute water. The same springs have abundant water and can supply the whole area and beyond.

This community was then assisted by the municipality with the required equipment and supplies. UThukela official committed to work together with the local community in their quest to draw and supply water in the area. The Municipal Manager commended this community for taking initiative to improve their livelihoods. He then assured them

that the municipality, as instructed by the Mayor, will ensure that this community receives all the required resources necessary to make it happen.

Speaking on behalf of the community, Mr Mdluli appreciated the support and assistance they received from the municipality. He also noted that the water infrastructure in his area is ageing. He pointed out that there's an unused water tank in the area that they deemed to be of great use for the community. Mr Jili then made a commitment to purchase and supply more equipment for this community to connect water right across the area.

Twin Buthelezi, a municipal official, will come handy in providing any help necessary to the community. Mr Jili also announced that they will hire two general workers through expanded public works programme to assist with identifying and fixing water leaks and other general duties. Equipment like water pipes, couplings, jointers and other plumbing accessories were handed over to this community, much to their delight.

Natural springs are vital lifelines for many rural communities, especially in remote areas where formal infrastructure falls short. Community members are thus empowered by protecting their water sources while local knowledge and skills are leveraged. Skills are grown in the community and a sense of ownership then goes hand in hand with sustainability.

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