

Sophia Park
Media Engagement Session

Speaker of Council
Executive Committee
Councilors
Municipal Manager
HOD's
District Officials
ULM Officials
Media

Good Morning, Molweni, Dumelang

On the 3rd of August 2016, residents of Umzimvubu Local Municipality casted their votes and placed a government in power. Given five short years to bring about change, we remain cognisant of the mandate of the electorate, and under no illusion about the complexity of the task ahead.

The complexity extends to the overall makeup of this local municipality. As the newly elected council of Umzimvubu Local Municipality we've made it our mandate to improve the status quo of the local municipality while eradicating the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and crime. With that said, all of our communities have been included into our vision to avoid alienation as we go about our task of creating a municipality that ensures constant dialogue between its residents and relevant stakeholders.

In order to provide equal opportunities for everyone, there must be an environment where businesses want to invest, where entrepreneurship can thrive and where government is supportive and enabling. This council is committed to creating a sound business environment where there is freedom to innovate. With this said the municipality is also committed on disseminating information with regards to municipal related programmes, thus we've managed to workshop and review our 5 year Communication Strategy while we've also managed host a number of stakeholder engagement sessions such as the ratepayers association week and the induction of ward committees.

The municipality remains committed on ensuring that all key performance areas of local government are well executed. On that note basic service delivery remains an ongoing function that requires adequate participation from all ratepayers. This will allow financial viability amongst all other municipal related projects within the local economic development space. The launch of Operation Masipathisane war rooms has brought a sense of unity between residents and the local municipality. We're proud to have been part of this initiative as it promises to bring about social stability in our municipality and to all the respective wards in our area.

Local Economic Development and Environmental Management



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Since the 3rd of August 2016 the municipal has created more than 150 Jobs while securing close to 25 business opportunities. Umzimvubu local municipality has further assisted 1979 local business with operating licenses in various business sectors in aid of advancing the local economic state of the municipality. On that note two mentorship programmes namely the farmer mentorship programme and the designer mentorship programme assisted over 10 wards with young people to benefit the most out this initiative.

Local Economic Development and Environmental Management projects include:

- Farmer mentorship programme
- Designer mentorship programme
- Mechanization of 15 hectares
- SMME Training: Trained local contractors on tax matters and filling of tender documents
- Flea Markets
- Construction of Multi-purpose centre (Mt Ayliff) phase 3

Public Participation

Since the 3rd the August 2016 the municipality has had various stakeholder engagement sessions including traditional councils, ratepayers, tribal councils and ongoing liaison with other sector departments within the Local Municipality. The annual IDP outreach programmes under this department seeks to address and account for various projects within the municipal domain. The induction of ward committees also took place in aid of improving the quality of work done within the respective ward committees.

Annual Public Participation Programmes Include

- Ratepayers Association Week
- IDP Roadshows
- Induction of ward committees
- Mayoral Outreach Imbizo Programmes

Good Governance

Umzimvubu Local Municipality has achieved a clean audit opinion from the auditor general, making it a clean model of administration under the financial year of 2015/2016. This achievement follows several consecutive unqualified audit opinions received throughout the years. The Auditor-General's report covers crucial areas including financial management, compliance, governance and performance against predetermined objectives.

The Auditor has given the municipality a clean bill of health in all these areas, with no non-compliance issues or material misstatements. The municipality is committed on keeping the clean audit status and will now implement a tight belting system for accommodation, travelling and catering for municipal officials and councillors. On a slightly different tone the municipality has applied a principle of putting people first by identifying the needs and challenges of the people residing within Umzimvubu.

These are some of the initiatives shared through good governance:



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- Handing over of Sewing Machines and Material
- Handing over of New School Uniform to Underprivileged Schools.
- Handing over of Gift Vouchers to the elderly
- Handing over of Educational Material and Toys to Hospitalized Children
- Disability Economic Empowerment Workshop
- Handed over 20 litres of paraffin to 3000 households in November.

A government that listens to its communities is responsive to their needs, accountable to them and dedicated to ensuring fairness and providing more opportunity. This means making sure that residents can easily communicate their concerns and matters of importance to the municipality. Importantly, we must ensure that vulnerable members like our aged, people with disabilities, women and children in a caring municipality are supported to access a better quality of life.

Basic Service Delivery

All communities should have access to at least a minimum level of services. This is not a goal, but a constitutional obligation. The many imbalances that still exist regarding equal access to services will be addressed through the development of new infrastructure and the rehabilitation and upgrading of existing infrastructure. In this regard the municipality aims to ensure that residents have adequate access to municipal services and infrastructure with ease. It's with this reason that the following access roads are now under reconstruction:

Access Roads:

- Ext of Mthelanja Access Road
- Upgrading of Nkanji to Molwana AR Maintenance
- Tela AR
- Nomkholokotho to Tyiwani Access Road Phase 2
- Zimbileni via Mtwana Access Road Maintenance
- Nkandla to Maziyetyeni via Dipini – Kudzingwe Access Road and Bridge
- Mfingwana to Ndakeni AR Maintenance
- Kinirha to Lower Mnyamane Access Road

Facilities

The construction of facilities in the local municipality has had its pros and cons however we continue to strive and live up to the expectations of our people. Facilities are constructed under public participation guidelines which seek to create space for residents and leaders to exchange development dialogue. The following facilities have been constructed:

- Lower Brooksnek Community Hall



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- Construction of Shinta Cluster Sport Facility
- Design and construction of Mt Frere (KwaBhaca) car wash

Municipal Institutional Development

The Municipal Development Plan is a long-term strategic Plan for managing municipal growth over the next 5 years in our municipality. This entails an extensive review of municipal policies and other internal structures within the municipal system. On that note Umzimvubu local municipality has convened a strategic planning session to align the municipal vision of the newly elected council. The following items have been reviewed for development.

Institutional Development and Transformation: Reviewed Policies and Documents

- Reviewed Municipal Policies
- Reviewed Organogram Review
- Reviewed 5 Year Municipal Strategy
- Workshopped and Reviewed 5 Year Communication Strategy

Institutional Development: Awarding of Bursaries

On a slightly tone, the municipality prides itself in the development and growth of all residing young people in the area. The pursuit of education and training is important and central to the growth and development of a society therefore it's imperative on the municipality's quest to unlock growth and development in the area as we harness and develop skills that support our growth. It's with this reason that the municipality has awarded 20 bursaries to respective pupils within the local municipality.

Let me remind you that as local government leaders we need to build a new future and a direction relevant to the needs of our communities we serve. This we believe is a crucial lever that will open up an opportunity that provides people with a chance to improve their lives. I would like to conclude by encouraging the youth in our community to make their mark and play a major part in what will be the future of Umzimvubu Local Municipality.

Together moving forward with endless possibilities

Cllr B.P. Mabengu

Honorable Mayor

Umzimvubu Local Municipality



3rd of February 2017

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Briefing Notes



UMZIMVUBU
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY