

**MAYOR'S SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR SK MNUKWA TO THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT KWABHACA ON 27 NOVEMBER 2019.**

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and whippers

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Officials present

Fellow Residents

Media Houses and public present

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ndiyanibulisa ngegama le ntuthukho kunye negama leNkosi yethu uYesu Krestu, Amen.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** I'd like to reiterate my words in emphasising that there is an onslaught on women in this country, and gender-based violence continues with perpetrators believing they have the right to destroy the lives of others. We need stronger interventions if women are to enjoy the fruits of our democracy the same way the majority of men do.

Given the scourge of Gender-Based violence in the country, which is declared a national address, government is implementing the Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, which was announced by President Cyril in September 2019.

The 16 Days Campaign forms the centre point of government's comprehensive 365 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. At the end of the campaign on 10 December 2019, government will officially launch the 365 Days Behavioural Change Campaign.

During the 16 Days period, Government together with civil society and the private sector will host a series of community and sector dialogues and activities to foster a collaborative effort in dealing with GBVF.

With that said, Umzimvubu will host a community dialogue in ward 24 together with government departments within the municipality to engagement community residents on the matter. The programme will also comprise of services on wheels which will be rendered by all invited government departments. Councillors are urged to support this programme and by so doing replicate the same programme in their communities.

**Madam Speaker;** On the 20th November 2019, Umzimvubu Local Municipality together with the Department of Home Affairs, SASSA, Transport, Correctional Services and Justice, activated international disability month at the N2 Taxi Rank in KwaBhaca. The awareness campaign was initiated by the Local Communicators Forum (LCF) working together with the Disability Forum.

The month long campaign carries weekly sub-themes which are reflected in the Medium Term Strategic Framework (2019-2024) of government. Umzimvubu promotes the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society. The campaign sought to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. Umzimvubu strongly condemns discrimination against people with disabilities

**Fellow Councillors,** 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. A small community in EmaXesibeni has been crossing a fierce river to Ngwegweni Village with no bridge. Community residents travelled long hours to gain access to neighbouring villages, trade opportunities and government facilities.

Noting these conditions, Umzimvubu Local Municipality has begun with the construction of a bridge that will connect more than 3 communities together in Marwaqa Village.

The overall state of the project is currently at 46% to completion. The 9 million project includes the construction of a two kilometre access road and has created more than 20 jobs for local residents in Marwaqa Village. The project is estimated to be completed by the 13th December 2019.

**Madame Speaker;** It is projects like these that ought to be communicated on a day to day basis. Communication between the leadership and its electorate should be enhanced to correct perceptions and close any vacuum that could be created as a result of muteness. It should become a habit and hobby to constantly communicate with the people and highlight all challenges that we may have encountered in the execution of our mandate. No vacuum should be allowed in the course of duty, be it the political representatives or public servants. We should never be shy to explain

On the 18th – 19th November 2019, Umzimvubu Local Municipality held a Communication Action Plan Review Session at Mvomvo Lodge, EmaXesibeni. The session reviewed the previous communication action plan used in the previous financial year for implementation in the 2019/2020 financial year.

The amended communication action plan promotes proactive engagement and enhances two-way communication between the municipality, communities and other social partners.

In conclusion, May I ask you all to remember your neighbours as we are approaching Festive Season, especially the elderly and those who live alone.

**“MAY YOU ALL HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR” till we meet again next year.**

Let me present the following EXCO report for Council’s consideration and noting:-

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**I THANK YOU.....NDIYABONGA**