



UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ATTENTION: ALL EDITORS / REPORTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07 APRIL 2026 – TUESDAY

MEDIA STATEMENT: UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY STRENGTHENS RESPONSE FOLLOWING DEADLY STRONG STORM INCIDENT

Following a recent incident caused by strong winds that tragically claimed the lives of Lihle Meyato (29) and Qhamani Langa (35) at Ngwetsheni village in KwaBhaca on Sunday late afternoon, the Umzimvubu Local Municipality has intensified its response efforts to support affected residents.

A preliminary report has been compiled and submitted to relevant government departments, including the Department of Human Settlements, with particular attention given to families who have been left homeless. Through Intergovernmental Relations structures, the Municipality has coordinated a multi-sectoral response to ensure that affected households receive urgent assistance.

Key departments such as the Department of Social Development are currently on-site, providing psychosocial support to affected families and the broader community. This support includes trauma debriefing and ongoing assessments for Social Relief of Distress (SRD), while the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) has initiated assessments and is providing essential relief items to affected individuals, including vouchers, mattresses, and school uniforms. Once the assessment process is concluded, a comprehensive and costed recovery plan will be communicated.

The Mayor Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu, accompanied by local churches and various government departments, conducted a second visit to the affected areas today, 7 April 2026. This will continue throughout the week to maintain presence on the ground to monitor the situation, assess ongoing needs, and ensure that support reaches all affected households.

According to the latest information as per the preliminary report compiled by the Alfred Nzo District Municipality Disaster Management Services, six (6) households have been left homeless, with an additional eight (8) houses affected at Goxe village (a nearby village adjacent to Ngwetsheni) within the same ward. Two (2) households have sustained partial damage. Four (4) individuals from one household sustained injuries that led to admission in hospital, two of them have been discharged.

“The Municipality remains firmly committed to supporting all affected residents and ensuring that both immediate relief and long-term recovery measures are implemented in a coordinated manner. We once again extend our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the bereaved Meyato and Langa families during this profoundly difficult time. We also appreciate the resilience, cooperation, and understanding shown by the community,” said Mayor Ndevu.

Further updates will be communicated as more information becomes available. Details regarding funeral arrangements will be shared once confirmed. Communities are urged to be patient as electricity lines have been damaged and thus affected power supply, Eskom teams are currently on the ground working to assess the extent of the damage, carry out necessary repairs, and restore electricity as quickly and safely as possible.

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