



UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ATTENTION: ALL EDITORS / REPORTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 APRIL 2026 – SUNDAY

MEDIA STATEMENT: A COLLECTIVE RESPONSE IN AIDING THE STORM VICTIMS AT NGWETSHENI AND GOXE VILLAGES IS UNDERWAY

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 5 April 2026, late afternoon, the Umzimvubu Local Municipality has intensified its response efforts to support affected residents.

Working hand in hand with key stakeholders, including the Department of Human Settlements and the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, the Municipality confirms that immediate relief material has been provided to all affected households. This coordinated effort has ensured that displaced families receive essential support during this difficult time. 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. The Department of Human Settlements undertook verification from 09–10 April 2026 for affected households for the provision of shelters. Gift of the Givers has also been roped in and will also undertake verification for the provision of support.

On Friday, 10 April 2026, the Municipality joined a community prayer organised by Traditional Leaders, together with local churches, to comfort the bereaved and affected families. Another multisectoral prayer is scheduled for Tuesday, 14 April 2026 at Ngwetsheni village.

“Our hearts are with all those affected by this tragic incident. The Municipality remains fully committed to standing alongside residents during this difficult time, ensuring that both immediate relief and long-term recovery support are provided in a coordinated and caring manner. We extend our deepest and most sincere condolences to the Meyato and Langa families as they navigate this profound loss. We are also deeply grateful for the strength, unity, and understanding shown by the community during this painful period,” said Mayor Ndevu.

The funeral services for the late Lihle Meyato and Qhamani Langa are scheduled to take place on 17 and 18 April 2026 at Ngwetsheni Village.

Electricity supply disruptions continue to affect communities due to extensive damage to both medium- and low-voltage infrastructure. Eskom has confirmed that electricity is expected to be fully restored by no later than Sunday evening to Monday morning. Residents are urged to remain patient as Eskom teams are currently on the ground carrying out necessary repairs and working to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

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