

Media Statement

To : All Media Houses
Attention : News Editor/Reporter
Date : 31 May 2017



uMgungundlovu goes Back to Basics

The lives of the members of Ubuhle Bezulu Cooperative from KwaMafunze in Elandskop outside Pietermaritzburg has been changed for the better, with uMgungundlovu District Municipality's financial assistance, this community based cooperative is now able to provide basic needs for their family members such as food and shelter. The uMDM Local Economic Development has been providing the aforesaid Co-Op with gardening tools since 2015

The aim of this initiative is to encourage the community to participate in the agricultural economy. This programme forms part of uMgungundlovu District Municipality's (LED) initiative that aims to tackle issues such as under development, food security, unemployment, poverty and other social ills, which have become synonymous with rural areas.

Sthembile Mgaga who is the Secretary of the cooperative said that they have achieved much more than anticipated through this cooperative as it already puts food on the tables of three more families. "Thank you so much to the Mayor and our municipality for putting the people first. We work so hard to make sure that we do not disappoint. This is our career and we take it seriously," she said.

The upbeat and hands on Mayor of uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Cllr Thobekile Maphumulo said that the programme came at the right place and time whereas government we are focusing on Radical Economic Transformation "I have heard a lot about how much the members of this cooperative have worked and it is a pleasure that today I am granted an opportunity to see this live," she said.

"Too many people of this area depend mainly on the agricultural economy to provide for their families. This is not only empowerment, but a healing process for all of us. This says we as upcoming commercial farmers can continue with our

livelihood and that our leadership is putting corrective measures in place to correct the past and putting people first," said iNkosi A. Ngcobo.

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