

Media Statement

To : All Media Houses
Attention : News Editor/Reporter
Date : 15 November 2017



uMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ONE YEAR IN OFFICE REPORT

The uMgungundlovu District Municipality Council led by Her Worship Mayor Thobekile Maphumulo held a programme at uMshwathi on the 15th of November 2017, to commemorate the council's one year in office. Together with uMshwathi local municipality they hosted a campaign to showcase the infrastructure development and service delivery programmes that they have carried out since coming in office.

The programme started with a media briefing which took place at uMshwathi District chamber where both uMgungundlovu District and uMshwathi municipality presented infrastructure projects that have been carried out over the past year. Bheki Mbambo, Head of Technical Services presented the uMshwathi Secondary Bulk Water Supply Project, a project that has provided over 159 work opportunities. The project is divided into three phases, with the completion date estimated to be July 2020.

The uMshwathi Secondary Bulk project will service the communities of Mpolweni, Albert Falls Trusfeed, Coolair and Greater Efaye areas (Nadi, Efaya, Ekhamanzi, Mbulwane & Kwazibusele) within the uMgungundlovu District Municipality jurisdiction. This translates to over +/- 324 000 community members will have access to potable clean water.

uMshwathi Municipal Manager, Mr Pro Dlamini in his report emphasised that as the municipality they have prioritised the development of agricultural activities and entrepreneurs within the agricultural and arts sector. As a rural majority municipality they are encouraging the formation of co-operatives within the municipality so that they are able to sell their products and also be able to support their families. Dlamini highlighted that they have supported more than 10 co-operatives with working equipment and training in both agriculture and hand arts. In conclusion he said that they are finalising an R8,5 million injection with the Department of Rural Development, which is going to assist co-operatives with securing land for agricultural purposes.

Mayor Maphumulo then led a delegation which included uMgungundlovu District officials, Inkosi Bhekukwenza Ntanzu from KwaNtanzu to ward 4 and councillors to the

newly renovated and extended Early Childhood Development centre. The ECD centre has a built-in playing area that can also be used as gym. Speaking at the venue, Mayor Maphumulo said "it is surprising that such areas as Ntanzi village have been 'ignored' for so long, the people were not even known that they exist, she further committed that as the district municipality they will continue to support rural communities, as uMgungundlovu District is made mostly such areas". Njabulo Cebekhulu a ward councillor for ward 4 requested the community to take care of the establishment because it's merely built for them and their children for the betterment of their education.

The convoy of delegates also went to observe the added 1,5 megaliteres reservoir in Trustfeed/ Wartburg, that will supply sustainability of the people of Wartburg and surrounding uMshwathi communities, including the 4000 housing development. District Mayor CLLR Maphumulo said "the government of the previous regime made sure that the infrastructure was there to serve the minority. As the democratic Government we are here to correct the past and will continue with such infrastructure projects to develop and improve the lives of the people".

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Issued by uMgungundlovu District Municipality's Communications Unit. For further information and confirmation, please contact Communications Manager, Mbali Ndlovu on 076 794 6830 or ndlovumb@umdm.gov.za