

Media Statement

To : All Media Houses
Attention : News Editor/Reporter
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SAICE AWARDS - ANOTHER FEATHER ADDED TO uMGUNGUDLOVU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CAP

Access to water and sanitation is a basic right according to the South Africa's Constitution. Local Government is in forefront of service delivery. For the past sixteen years basic services have been delivered to all South Africans, primarily the previously disadvantaged. Rural areas were predominantly with delivering basic services and infrastructure. The previously disadvantaged communities either had frail, old infrastructure or none. As population grew, so did access to basic services increased. uMgungundlovu District Municipality (uMDM) took over the function of supplying potable water and sanitation in 2009 from Local Municipalities.

Annually the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) PMB branch hosts awards for various projects that have been completed. This year it was hosted at Golden Horse Casino on 29 July. uMDM Technical Team, led by Bheki Mbambo submitted two projects: the Hilton Asbestos Cement Replacement Project and the ePhatheni Water Supply Project.

The project supplies water to over seven thousands people in areas such as Simozomeni, Ndaleni, ePhatheni. The ePhatheni Project based in Richmond scooped the "Best Community based Project" category, beating four other projects in the same category. Both projects had to comply with the SAICE verification criteria, which includes portraying the art and science of civil engineering to the general public, demonstrating functional efficiency, displaying of engineering ingenuity or design in construction techniques, economic contribution and servicing the people of uMDM.

The project has also provided substantial career mentorship to five local civil engineering students in attaining their professional registration. Educational

books and equipment was also donated to local schools and pre-schools, with training services on first aid and health & safety provided to teachers. The project has also contributed to local employment of over one hundred and ninety (190) locals, including women and youth.

“We are proud to add another feather to our cap; our Technical team indeed has done us proud. As mandated we will continue to deliver basic services to all, especially rural areas and the previously disadvantaged communities”, said uMDM Mayor.

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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