

MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All media
Attention : News Editors & Journalists
Date : 15 June 2017



COMMEMORATION OF YOUTH MONTH

June is celebrated as Youth Month in South Africa, with a specific focus on 16 June, which is also known as Youth Day. This year marks the 41 year anniversary of the Soweto Uprising on 16 June 1976, when 15 000 students gathered outside the Orlando West Secondary School, to participate in a peaceful march against the use of Afrikaans in their classrooms.

To commemorate this historical heroic act, uMgungundlovu District Municipality held a Youth Month activity today, the 15th of June 2017 at the District Reception Area. The event was graced by the presence of the uMDM and Msunduzi Councillors. The motive behind this celebration is to pay tribute to the school pupils who lost their lives during the 1976 uprising in Soweto under the national theme: “The Year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Participation.”

Bheki Mzimela the Youth coordinator from uMDM said “It is important to constantly reflect on where we come from as South African Youth”. He further alluded that South Africa faces a challenge because the youth of today is not well informed and needs to be more hands-on when it comes to pressing matters of the District such as Economic Development.

Councillor, Sthembiso Mhlongo, the Chairperson of Youth Committee motivated staff members and urged them to take responsibility in their communities and help uplift young people. “We thank the youth of 1976, today we can call ourselves free South Africans”.

A competition was held for the best dressed employee and Nohle Pehle from Corporate Services took the first price. To reflect on what happened in June 16 1976, a Sarafina dance was performed by Skhebe Kamhlohli Group.

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