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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY RATED AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE PROVINCE

Siphosethu Mkhwanazi and Neliswa Sibisi

Congratulations!

The Newcastle Municipality has emerged as one of the best performing municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal. This was revealed by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) during a virtual meeting of the IDP Indaba.

The virtual meeting gave feedback on the assessment of the KZN IDP's for the 2020/21 financial year as well as overall perspective of how the municipalities have fared with regards to compliance with the assessment criteria by KZN-COGTA. According to the feedback received, the Newcastle Local Municipality was amongst the top 10 municipalities with the best IDP.

In 2019, the Newcastle Local Municipality ranked the lowest in the district with 59.63%. However, during this particular financial year (2020/21), through consolidated efforts from the relevant stakeholders, we managed to get a scoring of 77.63% thus placing the municipality at number 10 out of 54 municipalities in KZN.

The report indicated that the Newcastle Local Municipality is by far the most improved municipality in KZN, exhibiting an improvement of 18%. Previously, the challenges hampering our score specifically related to the following Key Performance Areas (KPA):-

- Local Economic Development (LED);
- Basic Service Delivery; and
- Financial Viability and Management.

Through the IDP Steering Committee that's meant to synchronise planning in the interest of advancing the IDP, we have managed to improve. The Newcastle Municipality has managed a score above the KZN Provincial average of 72.27%. The Municipality has set a benchmark of improving the current score by mastering the strategic aspect of the IDP and working towards improving implementation at ground level all in the interest of ensuring effective and efficient basic service delivery to the people of Newcastle.

I DO RIGHT EVEN IF NOBODY IS WATCHING



Newcastle Municipality
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GANGS HAVE NO PLACE IN NEWCASTLE

Madam Speaker,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to once again address members of our beautiful municipality. I extend my greetings to Mrs Adams who turns 96 years old today. Happy birthday Mrs Adams. You've lived through the most perilous times, experienced the Second World War, lived through the darkest years in our country, and today you bear testimony to the secrets of the longevity of your years on this good earth. I find comfort and solace, in knowing that you are among the many who enjoy the fruits of liberation and freedom to cast your vote. I send a special word of gratitude for your willingness to give me an audience when I encouraged you to register to vote during our voter registration campaign. I find greater comfort, in knowing that your health is intact till this very day. On behalf of the residents of our peaceful and loving municipality, I wish you long life and greater wisdom.

Madam Speaker, I would like to first begin my fortnightly column with a quote from my mentor. He once said, "A community which does not nurture and discipline its youth is a society which will reap the bitter fruit of a lost generation". I am at pains to learn of sprouting and sporadic gangs in Osizweni and Blaaubosch, who terrorize members of our community. As the Newcastle Local Municipality we strongly condemn such vicious acts, and we don't condone gangsterism. We are not a banana town, where people can do as they please without

consequences. We will not allow any area to turn into a modern day 'Gotham City' where barbarism prevails over sanity and peace. I've got full faith in the abilities of our peace loving residents, and call upon them to spearhead efforts of instilling calm and tolerance. I've greater faith that the South African Police Services and the Department of Community Safety and Liaison will act swiftly to curb these acts.

I urge these gangs to immediately embark on an 'armistice' process and explore mechanisms which will ultimately lead to a truce. I call upon the parents of the youth not to spare the rod, and discipline their children, taking into consideration that corporal punishment is not an option. Our future solely lies in the hand of the parent who will jealously guard the ways of their children. I implore parents to sternly imbed order in the life of any child in our society. No youth should wish to embark in the adventurism of adopting an unsophisticated and crude lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, this week we will be deliberating on strategies to help bring civility and calm in the affected parts of Osizweni and Blaaubosch. We will further engage with all the affected parties and assist in ensuring that counselling is brought to those who have been negatively impacted by these detrimental developments. As mayor, I'll also be visiting the affected areas. Our prime objective is to charter an immediate road map which will guide our efforts to bring stability across our municipality. I end by thanking you, you the fellow residents of Newcastle for your resilience and forthright attitude as we tackle Covid-19.

Yours sincerely,

Newcastle Municipality

Mayor Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba.



**SEND THE MAYOR A
MESSAGE ON THIS WHATSAPP
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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY GEARS FOR TRANSPORT MONTH



Sthembele Dlamini, Thulile Maphanga and Neliswa Sibisi

With Transport Month fast approaching, the Newcastle Municipality is gearing up for a series of events to address critical transport related matters and road safety awareness campaigns. To prepare for these programs, the Office of the Speaker, the Public Participation Unit and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport hosted a two-phased programme at the Newcastle Town Hall. The main aim of this program was to sharply focus on improving local transportation.

The Newcastle Municipality Transportation Committee, which comprises members of the community, used this platform to outline road and transport related challenges facing communities across the length and breadth of Newcastle. The committee acts as a link between the municipality, wards,

communities, and is also responsible for all travel and road related matters. It mostly prioritizes transport related to the municipal Integrated Development Plan. Public Participation Manager Mr Zakhele Dlamini remains optimistic that that committee will address all transport related issues before the end of the last quarter.

“Road safety remains a priority in every sphere of governance, and such meetings provide us with much needed opportunities to explore ways of reducing road carnages and road fatalities. We are one municipality that does not compromise, especially when it comes to roads and transport related issues. Our

Transportation Committee plays a critical role, when tackling challenges associated with road safety and how the government can improve the functions of this sector,” remarked Mr Zakhele Dlamini.

The municipality's commitment to prioritize road safety was welcomed by all stakeholders. Committee members were handed certificates for their sterling contribution, and for their dedication in helping improve the sector.

REPORT WATER LEAKS \ SEWAGE SPILLS - 034 328 7600



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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY MEETS WITH THE CHINESE CHAMBER

Siphosethu Mkhwanazi

Last week the Chinese Chamber of Commerce proposed for the Newcastle Municipality to intervene and lead efforts of calling for peaceful engagements amongst all stakeholders, in Newcastle's economic cluster. This follows after months of stalemate negotiations in some quarters within Newcastle's textile industry.

The Newcastle Chinese Chamber of Commerce sought an urgent meeting with the municipality, in a bid to seek dialogue in gridlocked meetings between employers and employees in the sector. The meeting was also aimed at addressing recent protests, finding solutions to disputes and abruptly ending organized crime which impacts businesses. According to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, these economic ailments could potentially cripple the economic growth of Newcastle and lead to job losses. However, the chamber aims to mitigate these potential outcomes by working closely with the government.

The municipality also assured the representatives of the chamber that it would promptly act in the best interest of all parties, and would always side with the downtrodden, be it either the employer or the employee. The business fraternity has also proposed that the municipality continues to champion a critical role in leading these gatherings until amicable solutions are explored.

The meeting which was chaired by the Strategic Executive Director of Development Planning and Human Settlements, Mr Vish Govender, adopted various resolutions, which included an immediate summoning of all affected employees and employers. Newcastle Municipality Mayor, Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba, who later joined the dialogue, also assured the Chinese Chamber of Commerce that the municipality would act in the interest of the municipality and galvanize members of the public to favour peaceful efforts over bedlam.

"Civil Dialogue is always preferred over aggressive confrontation. We appreciate your efforts of wanting to work with us, but it's also in our best interest to remain impartial and neutral. This is not the time to be pointing fingers, or bashing each other. We will act in the ambit of the law and will lobby



for everyone to partake in peaceful engagements. The municipality will not tolerate anarchy," remarked Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba.

Dr Mahlaba also urged disgruntled employees to allow the current ongoing processes, which are spearheaded by the Department of Labour.

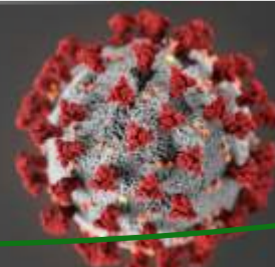
"Let us respect and allow the ongoing processes which are undertaken by our sister departments in government. We urge businesses to always act fairly and in a just manner when addressing issues in the

workplace," concluded the Mayor Dr Mahlaba.

The municipality has placed it on record and articulated its position in a categorically clear manner, that it has not in the past appointed a representative on behalf of the mayor to represent the community. In conclusion, it was resolved that the municipality will convene a joint meeting with SAPS, SARS, Department of Labour and the Chinese Chamber, in an attempt to bolster all parties to favour a long lasting harmonious solution.



WASH YOUR HANDS. SANITISE. SOCIAL DISTANCING



Newcastle Municipality
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“SEPARATION OF WASTE AT SOURCE” SET TO BE A GAME CHANGER FOR NEWCASTLE

Sthembele Dlamini

The Newcastle Municipality together with the National Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries and United Nations Environment Program, implemented a pilot initiative to introduce the separation of waste at source project in Newcastle.

Waste separation at source is a practice of separating wet and dry waste for effective recycling and the minimization of waste disposed at the landfill site.

The main aim of this project is to contribute towards the Municipality's waste minimization plan, by diverting at least 93% of waste away from landfill sites, to create employment, to save natural resources and energy. The supreme anticipated result is to prolong the longevity and lifespan of landfill sites across Newcastle and surrounding areas.

Newcastle Municipality Mayor Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba emphasised the positive outcomes of having a clean environment, especially during the uncertain times of the COVID-19.

“Waste services and waste collection is an integral part of service delivery. As a municipality we are thrilled to be among the first municipalities to adopt this initiative, and ultimately making it a success. Our prime objective currently is to ensure that we instil a culture of cleanliness and to also ensure that Newcastle remains a clean town. We tirelessly working towards our goal of being the preferred destination for industrialists. Our

efforts of fulfilling our 2035 vision of becoming a resilient and strategic city are slowly taking shape.”

Mayor Dr Mahlaba applauded the project's financial model and its ability to create employment in this sector. “I'm glad that this project has the potential of creating much needed employment in the field of waste minimization. Our solid waste sites are fill with tones of valuable material, most of which can be recycled and resold. The business and financial model of the project will change the fortunes of many people in Newcastle.”

The municipality's accounting officer and Acting Municipal Manager Mr M Mayisela explained that the rollout of this program, will only focus on two wards in the interim, and then later move to all 34 wards in Newcastle.

“This venture will start at Siyahlahla-la and Schuinshoogte. Households in these areas will be provided with two refuse bags, one black and the other will be a clear bag. This will give them the liberty of separating waste in the homes, whilst also having the opportunity to dispose of their garden waste at our 'Garden Drop-off' facility at the Farmers Hall. The Municipality wishes to prioritize women and the youth in particular for this initiative.”

Acting Strategic Executive Director for Community Service Mr Vish Govender,



also commended all the key partners for their relentless and proactive manner in identifying solutions to a century old problem.

“The issues of waste is problem dating back as far as hundred years. Unfortunately only a few solutions have been found. However, we are overjoyed to be among those championing the efforts of irradiating society of waste, and coming up with meaningful solutions. If this pilot project is a success, we would have done something right for the environment and for future generations to come.



REPORT CORRUPTION



NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY'S COMMITMENT TO BRING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS PROGRAMMES TO COMMUNITIES



Neliswa Sibisi and Nomfundo Khawula

The Department of Social Development (DSD), working together with the Newcastle Municipality's Special Programmes Unit, under Operation Sukuma Sakhe launched a Substance Abuse Awareness Programme last week in Blaaubosch. The initiative which was launched at the St. Anthony's Child and Youth Care Centre in Blaaubosch, was aimed at building broken families as a result of drug related incidents. It also strongly focused on equipping communities to deal with drugs. Blaaubosch is among the prioritized areas which was identified by the municipality. The program sought to identify first time drug users, experimenters, locate and pin alcohol and drug addicts. It also aimed to establish the root cause of substance abuse in this area. Ms Samke Dube, Manager of the Newcastle

Municipality's Special Programmes Unit was optimistic that the unit was close to identifying the roots of substance abuse. "We've established that substance abuse in this area is intertwined with socio-economic challenges faced by youth in Blaaubosch. We now need to establish feasible social programs to remove this social ill within our society. However, this will require tough stance and drastic interventions," remarked Samke Dube. The Substance Awareness Programme proposed introducing more dialogues in this community, involving more parents and community leaders in order to identify the underlying causes of substance abuse. This program will also be introduced to other communities. Guest Speaker for the day, Chief Whip

Cllr. Dolly Mnguni emphasised on the importance of involving parents and community in the fight against substance abuse. Cllr Mnguni also stressed on the need to local key role players in the drug industry, shut their operations and involved law enforcement agencies. The children and youth of the St. Anthony's centre were invited to take part in this dialogues. Key stakeholders such Life Line, Rehab Agencies, SANCA and SAPS resolved to tighten work relations to combat the drug pandemic. The dialogue received overwhelming support. Another social ill plaguing the community was brought to the fore, namely Gender Based Violence (GBV), and the role that the aforementioned stakeholders can play in curbing it.

ACCELERATING SERVICE DELIVERY



LOCAL SONGSTRESS MAKES AIRWAVES



Neliswa Sibisi

The Newcastle flag is once again flying high, thanks to 22 year old Asimbonge “Melanin” Zwane, who has booked herself a spot on the Idols last 16. The community of Newcastle, as well as Mayor Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba have rallied behind the song bird.

Melanin made an outstanding appearance on the Idols last 16, and her stellar performance wasn't short of a bravo. The songstress now aims to make it to the top 10 of the competition, and needs the support of her fellow community members to make her dreams come true. The budding superstar won the hearts of many during her audition when she delivered her own rendition of South Africa's favourite house song by Prince Kay-Bee, “Fetch your Life”

The outgoing, vibrant and friendly Melanin progressed to the next phase of the show, theatre week and mind boggled South Africans with her unique talent. She has proven beyond reasonable doubt that indeed she not only has the 'X' factor but also has the potential to be the next South African Idols winner!

For Melanin, singing is her escape to an unknown paradise and a breath to life. Her

journey as a singer dates as far back as her early singing years in the church choir, which then progressed to the High School choir, before winning local competitions.

Last week Melanin set the Idols stage on fire, with her spectacular performance of her rendition of the timeless hit song by Cindy Lauper, True Colours. The Idols judges who were left gobsmacked admittedly couldn't get enough of all. Veteran singer and Idols judge, Unathi Nkayi was left dumbfounded, and complimented Melanin for her uniqueness and deliverance style.

Newcastle Mayor Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba made a surprise phone call to the angelic singer and encouraged her to continue setting the stage alight. Mayor Dr Mahlaba also urged her to enjoy every moment of her performance and that Newcastle was fully behind her.

“As the residents of Newcastle, we are very proud of this talented and gifted young lady. We are fully rallying behind her because her success is also our success. I urge other youths to follow their dreams and don't allow life impediments to hinder your abilities to showcase your talent,” remarked Mayor Dr Mahlaba.



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“FACE-TO-FACE” WITH NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY SPEAKER OF COUNCIL



Thulile Maphanga

One of Newcastle's finest orators and champion of service delivery, Ms Samukelisiwe Yende, places an emphasis on serving the community diligently. Ms Yende is a firm believer of accountability, leading selflessly, and placing the interests of the community first. This week Newcastle's leading digital newspaper, Eyabantu, has a “Face-to-Face” conversation with the Speaker of Council, and establishes

the functions of her office and how to best attend to the needs of the community.

**“SERVICE DELIVERY AND AIDING THE COMMUNITY WHO VOTED US TO SERVE THEM IS KEY, IN THE SPHERE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE,”
SPEAKER OF COUNCIL.**

Ms Samkelisiwe Yende was born in Newcastle, and has spent her entire childhood and adult years in Osizweni, in the rural outskirts of Newcastle. Ms Yende's passion to serve the public was sparked and nurtured during her participation in the formation of the Newcastle Youth Council, until it was adopted and accepted in the municipality structures in 2008. Miss Yende extended her passion for politics when she was voted as a PR Councillor in 2019. During the same year, she was sworn as Newcastle Municipality Speaker of Council.

Speaker Yende explains that the Constitution of South Africa and the Municipal Structures Act necessitates that every Council elects a Chairperson, who is called the Speaker.

The Speaker's role is to ensure that every citizen in all 34 wards of the Municipality, is consulted, informed and engaged on all municipal decisions, especially decisions. A key mandate for the Office of the Speaker is to work cooperatively with ward

councillors to ensure that they diligently carry out their duties in the communities they serve, as they are the bridge between council and the community. It is also to structure the two functions of a Municipal Council, i.e. its legislative function and its executive function.

The Speaker presides at meetings of the Council and performs the duties and exercises the powers delegated to him/her. These duties include:

- Ensuring that Council meets at least quarterly;
- Maintaining order during meetings; must ensure;
- Ensuring compliance in the Council and Council committees with the Code of Conduct of Councillors; and
- Ensuring that Council meetings are conducted in accordance with the rules and orders of the Council.

Section 59 of the Municipal Systems Act defines the roles and power of the Speaker
Delegated roles are carried out through the three departments in the Office of the Speaker:

- Community participation department
- Councillor affairs department
- Council and committees department

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TENDERS & VACANCIES

NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY

ERRATUM

CS26/2020

Reference is made to the vacancies which appeared in the Newcastle Advertiser on 18 September, 2020 for the following positions :-

- Senior LED Officer : Investment Promotion : Post ID : DPHS30
- Chief Administrative Officer : Post ID : CORP3
- Personal Assistant : Post ID : CORP2
- Labour Relations Officer : CORP118C
- Organisational Development Officer : Post ID : CORP118

The CV drop box was stolen on 21 September, 2020 at Security on the 1st floor at the Tower Block.

Please re-submit your cv if it was submitted between 09:00am and 11:00am on 21 September, 2020.

Kindly note that the closing date will be **9 October, 2020** and not **2 October, 2020** as indicated in the original advertisement.

JOBS AND TENDERS ARE NOT FOR SALE



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY SAYS NO TO GANGSTERISM

“A community which does not nurture and discipline its youth is a society which will reap the bitter fruit of a lost generation”.

Newcastle Municipality Mayor

Cllr. Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba

