

**UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HELD VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING, ON THURSDAY, 21 APRIL 2022, AT 18H06.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr SR Ngcobo - Speaker

Cllr PH Mthiyane (Exco Member), VM Chiya (Exco Member), SP Mthethwa (Exco Member), GD Henderson (Exco Member), SN Caluza (Exco Member), NA Njenga (Exco Member), EV Baptie, SN Caluza, ST Khathi, MA Manyoni, FM Ngwane, MP Shoji, LMR Ngcobo, P Breedt, X Nkasa, MP Mteshane, TH Msabala, LS Zungu, BE Majola, MV Vezi, B Nyuswa, N Mweshe, MZ Luthuli, PC Shange, SHE Mngoma, GS Shange, SA Ngcece, SP Ntuli, TT Hlophe, SE Khawula, JS Ngwane, J Schmidt, BN Shoji, MP Shoji, N Ndovela and MP Tenza,

**BY INVITATION:**

Inkosi RS Shinga  
Inkosi EZ Jali  
Inkosi MBW Xolo

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr EMS Ntombela	-	Acting Municipal Manager
Mr VO Mazibuko	-	General Manager: Corporate Services
Mr S Mbewu	-	General Manager: Water Services
Ms K Audan	-	General Manager: Budget and Treasury Office
Ms D Rankin	-	General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services (EDES)
Mr F Zama	-	Senior Manager: Mayoralty and Communications
Ms Z Mshengu	-	Acting Senior Manager: Corporate Strategy and Shared Services
Mr S Kati	-	Manager: Risk and Internal Audit
Ms N Surajbally	-	Administrative Officer: Secretariat Unit
Ms B Malishe	-	Committee Co-ordinator: Secretariat Unit

**OPENING**

The Speaker extended a warm welcome to all the Councillors, Amakhosi and Officials.

**C 227/04/22 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice of the meeting was taken as read.

**C 228/04/22 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

It was noted that Cllr D Nciki (*network challenges*) and Cllr BE Machi (*family commitment*) had requested for leave of absence from the meeting.

It was further noted that all the Councillors that experienced network challenges were trying to join the meeting with the assistance of the Secretariat Unit.

Following which,

It was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr D Nciki (*network challenges*) and Cllr BE Machi (*family commitment*) be and is hereby granted leave of absence from the meeting.

**C 229/04/22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

It was noted that there were none.

**C 230/04/22 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

The Speaker took members through the confirmation of the agenda.

Cllr Baptie requested that a report on the water supply challenges should be included on the agenda.

In response, the Speaker assured members that the report regarding the Disaster included the water supply challenges as well.

Thereafter, Cllr Khawula moved for the acceptance of the agenda and was seconded by Cllr Mngoma.

Following which,

It was

**RESOLVED:**

That the agenda convening the special meeting of the Ugu District Municipal Council be and is hereby **CONFIRMED**.

## **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **C 231/04/22 Report on the Inclement Weather: April 2022**

Her Worship, the Mayor took members through the item and reported that an Executive Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, 20 April 2022; whereby the said item was discussed.

Thereafter, the General Manager: Corporate Services mentioned that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the inclement weather incident that occurred in the Ugu District municipal areas. He reported that the Ugu District started experiencing adverse weather as of 08 April 2022 and that all four Local Municipalities were affected. He mentioned that the report outlined the damages that had occurred, the statistics, the immediate response as well as support provided to the affected communities.

Giving members a background to the item, he said that the South African Weather Services issued a weather alert for the KwaZulu Natal Province. He reported that the Province had received a significant amount of rain in most part of the Ugu District. He pointed out the said weather had caused severe damages to the infrastructure, widespread damages in the residential areas, difficult driving conditions leading to motor vehicle accidents, mudslides, soil erosion and rock falls. He mentioned that the Municipalities were still trying to assess the damages, as the number of structures that were collapsing was increasing.

He then highlighted the wards that were affected in the Ugu District.

In addition, he took members through the activation of the emergency response teams and mentioned that the following emergency response teams were activated to assist with the provision of Relief, Rescue Efforts and Assessment of Damages. He said that the teams have been on the ground providing support where needed.

He apprised members of the Departments that had provided support namely:

- SAPS Search and Rescue Teams
- Municipal Fire & Rescue Teams
- Disaster Management Practitioners
- NGO's; Private Businesses
- SANRAL Department of Transport
- EMS
- Forensic Pathology Services
- Department of Education
- COGTA-PMC has been providing guidance and technical support

He reported that the Ugu District together with its family of Local Municipalities had activated their Joint Operations Committee (JOC).

He then took members through the following aspects namely:

- Impact and Distribution of Incidents in the District;
- Fatalities Reported and Confirmed; and
- Damages to the Infrastructure with regard to the Roads

He highlighted the Overall estimated household damages cost summary which estimated total costs was R11, 593, 850.00 and the breakdown as follows:

▪ Ward 01	=	R 1,375,000.00
▪ Ward 02	=	R 1,020,000.00
▪ Ward 03	=	R 775,000.00
▪ Ward 04	=	R 1,170,000.00
▪ Ward 05	=	R 403,850.00
▪ Ward 06	=	R 1,050,000.00
▪ Ward 07	=	R 425,000.00
▪ Ward 08	=	R 1,275,000.00
▪ Ward 09	=	R 1,025,000.00
▪ Ward 10	=	R 250,000.00
▪ Ward 11	=	R 2,825,000.00

In addition, he highlighted that the estimated total costs of damages regarding the Electrical Section was R 1 364 475.433.00.

He also took members through the Relief Stock that was issued as well as the Relief Stock that was still required.

He then highlighted the damage to the Water and Sanitation Infrastructure and the breakdown of costs which was as follows:

• Area South (Ray Nkonyeni)	-	R 9 000 000.00
• Area South Central (Ray Nkonyeni)	-	R 7 400 000.00
• Area North (Umzumbi/Umdoni)	-	R11 640 000.00
• Total Recovery of Water/Wastewater Infrastructure	-	R28 040 000.00

Relating to the Ugu Facilities, he highlighted what was needed to be done immediately to assist the communities.

He then took members through the damage of the heavy-duty Rescue Pump and the damage to the Portable Oxygen Compressor for the Breathing Apparatus sets.

He reported on the Department of Education; whereby 205 schools were affected.

He reported on the Shelters for the Displaced.

He informed members of the following namely;

- Emergency Response and Recovery;
- The Department of Social Development; and
- South African Red Cross Association

Regarding the Clean Up / Mop Up Programs; he mentioned that the clean-up of the coastal belt from Hibberdene to Port Edward was required and that the EPWP team had offered support to assist the affected municipalities and that plans were in place.

He then took members through the Donations.

He reported that AVBOB Funeral Services had committed to offer their assistance to the value of over R17,500.00 to R20,000.00 per family for burial assistance.

He emphasised that AVBOB Funeral Services had committed themselves to assist the families that had lost their loved ones although there were documentations that would have to be provided by the applicant, namely:

- (a) The Applicant's Identity Document;
- (b) Identity Document of the Deceased;
- (c) BI 163 Form;
- (d) SAPS Declaration. (This document was very important because it gives the information on how that person passed on. It will determine the approval of the request because it must be people who died out of this disaster circumstances); and
- (e) Death Certificate

He pointed out that the said assistance would be for Ugu District and its family of Municipalities.

Concluding, he highlighted the recommendations.

Commenting, Cllr Ngcece pointed out that the water infrastructure was severely affected and requested more information on same.

The General Manager: Water Services took members through the current water challenges and highlighted the following:

- St Helens Rock – The low lift pump was damaged; hence all the outlets to the main reservoirs were closed to avoid total collapse; and
- Umzimkulu System - the Command Reservoir was damaged and the supply from Umtentweni to Hibberdene was affected

He pointed out that the Teams were on the ground attending to the repairs and that most of the areas were now receiving water.

With regard to the Umtamvuna System, which affected Ezinqoleni, he said that there was a recovery process in place and that some roads were not accessible, which was a challenge.

He indicated that the rivers were flowing very high, which was also a major challenge.

He reported that the South Coast Pipeline which fed Umdoni, Craigieburn, Park Rynie and Sezela were damaged and that there was a major break in Sezela. He mentioned that the service provider had commenced work on the ground and that it was likely that the said communities would only start receiving water on Sunday.

Commenting, Cllr Tenza reminded Council that Mistake Farm had 19 wards and not 20 wards.

Cllr Henderson referred to the damage report for the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality and pointed out that there was no amount mentioned for the houses that were damaged. He said that he was aware that more than 300 homes were damaged, and that Management should verify same.

With regard to the South Coast Pipeline restoration, whereby it was envisaged that the communities would only start receiving water on Sunday, Cllr Baptie suggested that communication should be made to the residents informing on same and what would be done to assist the affected communities. He emphasised that there should be an interim supply of water.

Also commenting, Cllr LMR Ngcobo commended the Speaker for convening this meeting which was critical. He expressed his condolences to the families that had lost their loved ones. He further expressed his concern regarding all those that had lost their homes and was hopeful that the Mayor together with the Local Municipalities would assist all those that were affected.

He thanked Management for working with the private sector such as Avbob and encouraged Management to look for more funding from the private sectors.

Cllr JS Ngwane referred to the SASSA relief in terms of vouchers that was trending on social media and sought clarity on same.

He referred to the houses that had collapsed and pointed out that the numbers on the ground were different. He requested Management to verify same given that there were many more houses that had collapsed; hence the number would increase.

He then referred to the list of roads that was reflected and pointed out with concern that the areas in KwaMadlala were not included such as Shobeni, Morrison and so forth.

He said that the same applied to the list of bridges that were affected in the KwaMadlala area.

He then referred to the houses and pointed out that the toilets were still an issue. He sought clarity on how far was the Municipality in trying to provide toilets.

Inkosi Jali welcomed the report. He sought clarity regarding the repairs to all the damages and the assistance to the communities, when was same going to start. He also sought clarity on the Disaster Management assisting the communities; would same assist the communities for two (2) to three (3) months and thereafter, what would happen.

The General Manager: Corporate Services pointed out that in future, sufficient budgets for the acquisition of disaster relief resources must be considered, as there were currently no further funds in the budget.

With regard to the SASSA vouchers, the Acting Municipal Manager explained to Council that SASSA assisted those families; whereby their groceries and food were damaged. He said that the affected family must report same to their Ward Councillor; whereby the Ward Councillor would visit the family and put same on a list and submit to their respective local municipality. He further explained that the Disaster Management would then go and verify same and that the Department of Social Development would also verify same and that the report would then be stamped and sent to SASSA. He emphasised that the Local Municipalities were the rightful structure.

In addition, he mentioned that there were SASSA Offices; whereby assistance and clarity could be sought from.

Cllr Henderson explained to Council that the issue of the SASSA vouchers was discussed at the Council meeting of the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality, and it was explained that Ward Councillors should assist the affected families and that the person who put in a claim must go to SASSA and that SASSA would then verify the said claim. He said that the Social Workers from the Department of Social Development would then do the verification.

Thereafter, Cllr Manyoni moved for the acceptance of the recommendations and was seconded by Cllr Mthethwa.

Following much discussion and deliberations,

It was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the high negative impact on communities and critical areas including hospitals, clinics, prisons, residential and business areas which threatens both life and economic activities be and is hereby **NOTED**.

- (b) That the burial assistance offered by AVBOB be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (c) That in future, sufficient budgets for the acquisition of disaster relief resources be considered, as there were currently no further funds available in the budget.
- (d) That the Municipality looks for donations from the private sector to ensure the provisions of impactful assistance to the disaster affected people of the Ugu District.

**C 232/04/22 IN-COMMITTEE MATTERS**

It was noted that there were none.

**C 233/04/22 CLOSURE**

There being no further items for discussion, the Speaker declared the meeting closed at 19h35.

**CHAIRPERSON:** ----- **DATE:** -----