

**UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECESS COMMITTEE HELD VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING, ON WEDNESDAY, 29 DECEMBER 2021, AT 10H00.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr PH Mthiyane	-	Chairperson
Cllr M Chiya	-	Member
Cllr D Nciki	-	Member
Cllr SN Caluza	-	Member
Cllr GD Henderson	-	Member

**BY INVITATION:**

Mr D Ntकिनca	-	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)
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**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr EMS Ntombela	-	Acting Municipal Manager
Ms D Rankin	-	General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services (EDES)
Mr S Mbewu	-	General Manager: Water Services
Ms M Mgobhozi	-	Acting General Manager: Corporate Services
Ms L Sotshede	-	Acting General Manager: Budget and Treasury Office
Dr T Mwelase	-	Senior Manager: Water Services Operations
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Ms F Mbili	-	Senior Manager: Corporate Strategy and Shared Services
Mr F Zama	-	Senior Manager: Mayoralty and Communications
Ms N Mbambo	-	Manager: Legal Services
Mr S Kati	-	Manager: Risk and Internal Audit
Mr A Mbele	-	Manager: Administration and Auxiliary Services
Ms T Kikine	-	Acting Committee Co-ordinator: Secretariat Unit

**OPENING**

The Mayor extended a warm welcome to all the members present. She then requested Cllr Nciki to open the meeting in prayer.

**REC01/10/21 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice of the meeting was taken as read.

**REC 02/10/21 APPLICATIONS OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

It was noted that there were none.

At that stage of the proceedings, the Mayor extended words of gratitude and further thanked the members for availing themselves for the said meeting.

**REC 03/10/21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

It was noted that there were none.

**REC 04/10/21 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

The Mayor took members through the confirmation of the agenda.

The Acting Municipal Manager introduced Mr D Ntकिनca from CoGTA and explained that he was invited to the meeting on an advisory capacity.

Cllr Nciki moved for the confirmation of the agenda and was seconded by Cllr Henderson.

Following which,

It was

**RESOLVED:**

That the agenda convening the meeting of the Recess Committee be and is hereby **CONFIRMED**.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**REC05/10/21 Presentation of the District Water Supply Status Report**

The General Manager: Water Services advised members that the Senior Manager: Water Services Operations would be taking members through the presentation.

The Mayor requested that the Senior Manager: Water Services Operations should only report on the progress.

Taking over, the Senior Manager: Water Services Operations took members through the item. She reported on the water supply challenges and the remedial action plan for the following areas, namely:

- Area South;
- Area North; and
- Area South West

She reported that the Ugu District Municipality had been experiencing water supply interruption challenges within the Ray Nkonyeni Operational area due to water infrastructure breakdowns at both the Bhobhoyi and the Umtamvuna bulk abstraction, purification, and reticulation network.

She informed members that the St Helens Rock had a series of breakdowns since the beginning of October 2021 that was due to electrical switch gear damage during

lightning strike, impact of extended Eskom load shedding, recent faulty on the duty switch gear unit on High lift pump High Voltage panel and low lift pump breakdown. She stated that the Umzimkhulu river raw water quality was compromised by heavy silt due to the storm water runoffs from inland which affected the abstraction and purification at St Helen's Rock/Bhobhoyi works from Wednesday night until Friday midday.

She also pointed out that the Umtamvuna system was also affected by weeks of unplanned power outages; raw water abstraction affected by vandalism at the Umtamvuna Goqozi area and bulk water main breaks which had compromised the coastal urban strip, KwaXolo and Izingolweni/Nodalane/KwaXolo water supply.

She then reported that the bulk water supply deficit in the inland areas supplied by the Umthavuna and the Mhlabatshane Water Supply Scheme had an impact on stable water supply whereby the community water supply was very erratic and most areas relied on water tankers; Umgeni Water supply dam had filled to 100% with Mhlabatshane Water Works having started to increase purification throughout to increase bulk water supply but the water system demand still exceeded the increased capacity.

She shared with members that the illegal connections on the bulk main at Umzumbe Ward 1 and Ray Nkonyeni (RNM), in Ward 14 further compromised the distribution of water to RNM Ward 04, 14, 15; community engagement sat with Ward 1 community representative to deliberate on the illegal connection impact. She advised members that the Water tanker schedule was also affected by limited Water Tankers due to break downs and further torching of parked tankers at the Ugu Market during the civil unrest; new six trucks were allocated to RNM.

She pointed out that the Umtamvuna Supply Scheme had experienced erratic water supply especially in the inland areas of Izingolweni and the Kwaxolo System, which was due to limited raw water abstraction, limited capacity of existing Hanover Water Pump Station, illegal water connections on the Nodalane line, unstable & limited power supply to increase volume of water being abstracted with recent challenges on the recent unplanned power outages which had major water supply interruption for Umtamvuna inland and Coastal Systems.

She reported that a funding approval for an upgraded electricity supply of R14 million was obtained from COGTA; and Eskom had been paid and were in the designed stages. She shared with members that a New Hanover Pump Station phase 1 (Pump station construction) and phase 2 (Pumping pipeline and New Florida Reservoir) were in the implementation stage.

She further advised members that a permanent saltwater containment berm project was on planning and design stages for the current financial year. She reported that the said berm temporary structure was constantly being impacted by the heavy river flow and that the structure was deteriorating with temporary structural rehabilitation and maintenance to minimise the effect of spring tides.

Cllr Henderson referred members to page 10 of the report and pointed out with concern that there was no report that was received relating to the Northern Line (Melville and Hibberdene).

Cllr Nciki emphasised that the members should consider and engage on water challenges throughout the four (04) corners of the Ugu District instead of only focusing on certain areas of interest, and the Mayor shared the same sentiments.

Cllr Henderson requested that the presented updated report with yellow highlights should be e-mailed to all members. He enquired on the three (03) experts that have been assigned to the Municipality and further sought clarity when would same be on site.

He also raised a concern relating to backlog of sewer tanks that were flowing on the streets. He then enquired if there was a plan that was put in place to attend to the said problem.

He also touched on the issue of the water that was off-colour and dirty that was coming out from the taps and enquired if there were remedial plans to ratify the said problem. He emphasised that the Municipality had to attend to the issue of the sewerage lines that were overflowing directly in the ocean.

He shared with members that Eskom had disconnected the power line at Woodrange due to the non-payment which then resulted in the community having no water supply for many days. He further enquired if the Municipality had a problem in settling the Eskom account and if so, what contingencies would be put in place.

He emphasised that there were many reports received of no water from Port Edward to Hibberdene and the communities are requesting for water tanks. He raised a concern that the Old Age Homes and Holiday Resorts were fully booked, and their tanks had run dry. He also enquired if the Municipality could assist in this regard. He raised a concern that the Margate Extension 2, in Elizabeth Road had no water for the past three (03) weeks.

The Mayor pointed out that the challenge relating to the water and sanitation was not a concern facing the Ugu District only but same was a National issue.

Cllr Nciki emphasised that Management should ensure that the tourists should not leave the Ugu District due to the issue of water shortages. She raised a concern on the issue of vandalism which had a negative impact on the water supply. She then advised that engagements should be held with the communities and the involvement of the Traditional Leaders to sensitise the people on the negative effects of vandalising the water infrastructure.

She also suggested that the Municipality needed to consider the issue of job creation for the youth with the involvement of the Youth Offices and the Local Economic Development from the Local Municipalities.

She raised a concern that the Harding Water Dam had decreased drastically even though there were recent rains and further advised that something needed to be done urgently.

Commenting, Cllr Caluza enquired on the steps that were taken in the event where an illegal connection was identified.

The Acting Municipal Manager confirmed that there were three (03) CoGTA experts that had been assigned to the Municipality to assist in the following functions, namely:

- Finance;
- Governance; and
- Technical Services (Water Services)

With regards to the Finance Department, he explained to members that a company called Dash Consulting was appointed in November 2021. He mentioned that the said three (03) experts were currently collecting information from the relevant departments in order to be able to determine the necessary interventions that were required to assist the said Departments.

Regarding the issue of the Eskom payment, he explained to members that the Mayor requested that a meeting should be held between herself, the Acting Municipal Manager and Eskom in order to raise certain concerns relating to the termination of the electricity to the water plants without any consultations with the Municipality.

On the issue of the Vacuum Tanker Services backlogs. The General Manager: Water Services explained that there was a panel of VTS Trucks in place. He pointed out that the municipality had a challenge in terms of the said services because it was not economically viable considering the costs that customers had to be charged in relation to the costs that the Municipality paid to the services providers. He mentioned that the Department was relying on the Fleet Management Unit to fast-track the repairs in order to have more trucks that were functional.

Regarding the concern relating to the dirty water coming out from the taps, he explained that the problem occurred due to a challenge of a high turbidity at the St Helens Rock Pump Station which same was as a result of the heavy rainfalls that were experienced at the Umzimkulu River.

The concern relating to the non-availability of water from Port Edward to Hibberdene, he pointed out that the main issue related to the capacity of the water production, whereby the Municipality was currently producing 84ml of water in Bhoboyi against the current demand being 104ml. He mentioned that the new plans that had been put in place were also aligned to the Master Plan which was previously adopted by the Ugu District Municipal Council.

He shared with members that the upgrade of the power supply from Eskom was currently underway and scheduled for completion by June 2022, while the Municipality would also be putting plans in place for an upgrade of the Umtamvuna Water Plant in order to be able to produce 30ml of water.

In terms of the request to supply water to Old Age Homes and Holiday Resorts, he confirmed that the Municipality was currently performing the said task as and when required.

The concern relating to no water at Margate Extension 2, he confirmed that most of the areas have been restored accordingly.

He assured members that the report that was highlighted in yellow would be forwarded to the Secretariat Unit for onwards submission to all members.

The concern relating to the decreased water levels at the Harding Water Dam, he advised members that the Municipality had considered the raw water transfer pipeline from Weza to Harding in order to augment the water supply due to a challenge that had been identified relating to a lot of water usage upstream.

With regard to illegal connections, he explained to members that when there was an illegal connection that had been identified, same was disconnected immediately and that same was inline with the Illegal Water Connection Policy including the involvement of the Ward Councillors and the Traditional Leadership.

Cllr Henderson thanked the officials for the presentation and further pointed out the importance of keeping the Leadership apprised of the current development on the water issues.

Sharing the same sentiments, Cllr Nciki advised that the Councillors should also assist and take an initiative role of addressing the communities on the issues of water.

The Mayor tasked the Acting Municipal Manager and the General Manager: Water Services to attend to the issue of dirty water coming out from the taps urgently.

Following which,

It was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the presentation of the District Water Supply Status report be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (b) That the updated report with yellow highlights that was presented be emailed to all members.
- (c) That the Acting Municipal Manager and the General Manager: Water Services be and is hereby tasked to attend to the issue of dirty water coming out from the taps urgently.

**REC06/10/21      Status Report on Environmental Health Function Matters During the Holiday Season**

The General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services (EDES) took members through the item.

She apprised members that the purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with information on various environmental health function during the holiday season.

She mentioned that during the holiday period, separate programmes were developed which gave focus and additional attention to the following, namely:

- Water Quality Monitoring of Beaches and Lagoons;
- Close working relations and communication with Management of Health Establishments with regard to disease profiling and notifications of any sickness and illness which could be of Environmental Health concerns; and
- Monitoring of restaurants alongside Beaches for compliance, and importantly grease trap usage.

In terms of the Water Quality Monitoring of Beaches and Lagoons, she advised members that on 20 and 21 December 2021, the samples were taken from the following lagoons and E.coli counts which were discovered to be higher than the minimum acceptable risk standard, namely:

- Uvongo Lagoon (2500) and Beach (1700);
- Margate Lagoon (2500); and
- Ramsgate Lagoon (1600)

She reported that precautionary measures were put in place to confine water sport activities including swimming and fishing in the sea. She mentioned that communication was also made for the prohibition of the utilisation of the lagoons for recreational purposes given that the Municipality could not guarantee the safety of the water for recreational purposes. She reported that the second sampling for the above mentioned lagoons was done in 28 December 2021 and awaited the results.

In terms of the working relations with the Health Establishment, she reported that on 20 December 2021, there were forty-nine (49) cases of diarrhoea that were reported at Margate Private Hospital from the individuals who had visited the the Uvongo, Manaba, Margate beaches and lagoons.

She mentioned that there was an additional cholera case whereby a person was hospitalised in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Margate Hospital. She reported that necessary investigations were conducted, and the Disease Council (CDC) had confirmed that the said case was non-infectious cholera and the said individual was discharged.

In terms of the restaurants, she reported that the said establishment which were identified as (hotspot) resulting in fat blocking manholes and subsequent spillage had been closely monitored, and the problem was resolved accordingly, which were as follows:

- Shelly Beach Ski Boat;
- St Mikes Restaurant (C-Bali); and
- Uvongo (Larrys)

Cllr Henderson enquired if the Municipality still employed the EPWP Workers, and if so, how many were employed and where was their workstation. He enquired if the said officials could not be deployed to work on the beaches.

In terms of the forty-nine (49) cases that were reported, he advised members that some of the individuals had confirmed that they did not visit the mentioned beaches or lagoons. He then requested that the General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services should share the test results once received.

On the issue of restaurants, he thanked the Environmental Services for conducting investigations. He pointed out that there were other many other restaurants which were also discharging on the same line.

He suggested that the Municipality should do a press statement or a notice that the Recess Committee had convened to discuss the issues of water challenges within the Ugu District.

On the issue of deploying the EPWP Workers to the beaches, the Mayor reminded members that the Municipality had previously agreed that the Local Municipalities would be responsible for cleaning beaches and that the EPWP Workers would focus on the Water Plants and Pump Stations.

The General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services pointed out that Item 4.1 on the report indicated that the said department had their ongoing programmes and projects that were being implemented whereby all restaurants were investigated on fat blocking manholes and subsequent spillage.

She explained that during the holiday season, the said Department focused on the hotspots of the three beach areas that were reported extensively. She confirmed that all the restaurants, supermarkets and food related enterprises were covered throughout the year. With regards to the test results, she confirmed that the results for the entire holiday season would be made available to all members.

The Mayor tasked the General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services to submit a report to the next meeting detailing the number of EPWP Workers, the number of reservoirs and pumpstations.



She tasked the Acting Municipal Manager to do a press statement or a notice by 30 December 2021 reporting that the Recess Committee had convened to discuss the issues of water challenges within the Ugu District.

Following which,

It was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the status report on Environmental Health Function Matters during the Holiday Season be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (b) That the Acting Municipal Manager be and is hereby tasked to do a press statement or a notice reporting that the Recess Committee had convened to discuss the issues water supply challenges within the Ugu District and that same be done by 30 December 2021.
- (c) That the General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services be and is hereby tasked to submit a report in the next meeting detailing the number of EPWP Workers, the number of reservoirs and pumpstations to the next meeting.
- (d) That the General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services be and is hereby tasked to share the test results once received.

**REC 07/10/21 CLOSURE**

There being no further items for discussion, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 12h06.

**CHAIRPERSON:** -----

**DATE:** -----