



29 September 2022

IN MY VIEW



**Ugu Mayor
Cllr Phumlile Mthiyane**

The extent of devastation caused by the constant Eskom power blackouts during the past week has resulted in major water supply disruptions across the district as most of water treatment works are highly reliant on Eskom power supply to operate effectively.

Following the implementation of stage 3 load shedding recently, the municipality has earnestly resumed with the process of recovering and restoration of most water supply systems which have been gravely affected by the constant power blackouts. Water relief supply operations through water tankers has resumed as most of our water tanker filling points have gradually improved. Relief supply will therefore be prioritised to areas which were hugely affected by water supply.

As the Mayor of Ugu, I would like to sincerely apologise to the affected people and re-assure our Citizen's that our efforts to improve water and sanitation supply are still of top priority to us. We are also in the process of finalising the appointment of a new Municipal Manager who will play a pivotal role in the functioning and operating of the Ugu District Municipality.

Storage Dam increases to 93%

Apart from ageing infrastructure and power cuts affecting supply, the improvement in water supply to our communities must be commended. Our commitment to developing and maintaining infrastructure to better supply water and sanitation services has been realised through the recent major mechanical and electrical maintenance at the St Helen's Rock and Bhoibhoi plant who have indeed improved supply to most of our communities.

The provision of quality water to all our communities is essential for economic development, health as well as the realisation of their constitutional right. It is for this reason that, as duty bearers, we envision communities devoid of water and sanitation issues, where there are lesser challenges in delivering services.

This is why we have channelled our energies and efforts towards the refurbishment of the Bhoibhoi Off-Channel Storage Dam that was previously designed to retain approximately 900ML estimated at 14 days storage or more, depending on

the season. Over the years, due to Mechanical and electrical issues, the level of the Dam has been very low. As a result, the Bhoibhoi water works was reliant only on the pumping from St Helen's Rock. This phenomenon put a lot of strain from the pumps. This led to many breakdowns being experienced over a number of years. It is for this reason that Ugu District Municipality together with COGTA embarked on the refurbishment of St Helens Rock

"Storage Dam Levels increase to 93%, a first in many years."

Pump Station which has aided more volume to be pumped into the dam thereby gradually increasing the level. There has also been many interventions that have been employed by the district such as Active leakage control in the bulk lines which has amassed savings of more than 16ML/day.

his has stabilised water supply in the Bhoibhoi water which improved delivery of water supply generally.

The above interventions have ensured that the dam fills to 93%.

With the above in place, water supply has been swinged from the dam to the water works thereby achieving the following:

- Loadshedding or any electrical faults will no longer affect supply as much as it has been for at least 14 days. This allows the fault to be resolved while supply is not affected.

- Pumping from St Helen's Rock Pump station to the dam will now be controlled and only off-peak hours will be utilised. This will drastically reduce electrical power expenditure by more than a R 1million and a month.

- Peak Season preparedness has been given a boost through the dam level as the dam will or may mitigate any supply problem.

With the above, the municipality is confident that the upcoming festive season is likely to have lesser water challenge issues, should the dam remain as is or improve.



WHAT'S INSIDE

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ACCELERATING SERVICE DELIVERY

Service delivery is set to move up a gear following the addition of three new tractor-loader-backhoes to Ugu District Municipality's fleet. As well the recent maintenance of mechanical and electrical components at the St Helen's Rock Plant, Umthamvuna and Bhobhoyi Water Treatment Works.

The New TLB's were handed over a few months ago to operators, by Deputy Mayor Cllr Mandla Chiya & Speaker Cllr Sizwe Ngcobo alongside Corporate Services GM Vela Mazibuko, who were ecstatic at the move.



New Tractor's for Ugu

The TLB's are pivotal in rendering of everyday services and have been operational since. They have also played a pivotal role in reducing the backlog the municipality had been faced with.

'War Room In Action'

A committee made of District Leadership, Officials from Ugu, Umgeni Water, National Water & Sanitation, Cogta, Amakhosi, NGO's, Civil Society etc, was set up to robustly deal with water and sanitation challenges and provide turnaround solutions to water and sanitation issues in the District.



Maintenance of M&E components at St Helen's Rock



UGU CONDEMNS ACTS OF VANDALISM

A case of vandalism was recently opened with Margate SAPS after two suspects were apprehended vandalizing the Ramsgate 8 sewer pump station. This follows a series of incidents where critical infrastructure has been found vandalized across the district. Vandalism of infrastructure will not be tolerated as it amounts to treason.

Not only does it rob residents of their rights to better service but it has huge financial implications for the municipality. We wish to send a strong message to all community members to refrain from vandalizing all important infrastructure. Such practices will result to arrests and being dealt with by the full might of the law.



NEW COUNCILLOR IS SWORN IN



Ugu District Municipality council sitting recently swore in a new PR councillor. Councillor Nomvelo Ndadane (23) from Kwa-Mbotho area in Umuziwa-bantu joined the municipality as a Proportional Representative (PR) councillor, replacing former Cllr Bhekinkosi Majola. Cllr Ndadane swore under oath to serve with diligence the communities of Ugu. She vowed to carry forward the directive given to her by the district's council in line with the municipality's vision and mission. Ugu Speaker Cllr Sizwe Ngcobo has on behalf of council welcomed Cllr Ndadane and wished her well in her new responsibilities.

UGU ENGAGES WITH AMAKHOSI

To improve stakeholder relations and ensure traditional leaders participate actively in community development, Ugu Leadership and officials have started with a series of engagements with Amakhosi and Izinduna across the district. These engagements are part of the municipality's efforts to identify water supply challenges facing rural communities & to find practical solutions challenges that hinder water supply.





A delegate attends the workshop

Women empowerment workshop

Ugu District Municipality in collaboration with the Office of the KZN Premier, hosted a women's empowerment workshop in St Michaels recently. Some 100 young women were selected to be part of the workshop through various structures in the district. However 15 of them were given an opportunity to join the event by writing a motivational letter, as to the reason they deserved to be there. The purpose of the event was to empower unemployed young women who are passionate about being leaders in their communities. A lot was shared among these young women, such as being taught self defence, in case, she found herself in danger. There were also motivational talks where the women were encouraged to forgive themselves and focus on rebuilding themselves

"Nothing for us, without Us."



FALLEN CLLR



Cllr Patrick Mteshane was laid to his eternal place. Lala Ngokuthula Baba!



Innovation workshop for young guru's



Ugu District municipality Youth Office, with the assistance of the Department of Science and Innovation recently hosted the Grass-roots Innovation Workshop for the unemployed youth of the South Coast who are interested in developing software applications. The purpose of this initiative was to brief the youth about the requirements for earning a sponsorship of R250 000 and mentorship to boost or kickstart their application. The workshop was held at the Ugu District Municipality training room. The workshop was aimed at unpacking qualifying

criteria for entry or what will help those who apply hold a better chance of being successful. "This initiative targets unemployed youth that have developed a software or are interested in developing one. The candidate must have an idea that does not belong to an organisation or group and the application needs to be informative and address social ills," said youth manager Mondli Ncwane during the workshop. The workshop consisted of presentations from various stakeholders including the Technology Innovation Agency which guided the youth about the processes of developing and running their businesses and software applications. The youth also received an opportunity to ask questions and ideas which can make them potential winners of the sponsorship.

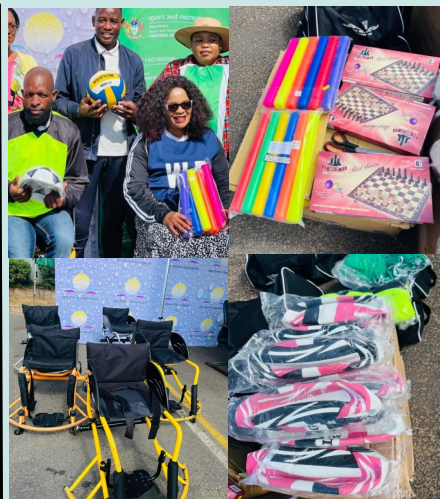


GOLDEN GAMES GALORE

Ugu District Municipality recently hosted the Ugu District Golden Games for senior citizens of Umzumbe, Ray Nkonyeni and Umuziwabantu at the Ugu Sports and Leisure Centre in Gamalakhe. Participants needed to be 60 years and above in order

"We are extremely proud of our senior citizen's for thinking beyond their ages and exploring more ways to keep healthy." Cllr Sizwe

to take part in the games. All participants begin at ward level, then move to local municipalities before going to the District games. Of-course winner's will then be proceeding to the provincial games to represent the district. The active Senior Citizens played different games such as Netball, Soccer, Athletics as well as indigenous games.



Sport Equipment For Disabled People.

Our Cllrs, through the Special Programmes' Unit together with the Department of Sports & Recreation handed over sporting equipment to people living with disabilities. Basketball wheelchairs, Netball Balls, Soccerballs as well as kits.

Illegal connections continue to pose problems

The Ugu District Municipality re-iterates its stance on illegal connections. As such, the area of Izingolweni continues to battle with water challenges caused by 90% illegal connections. Many community members who are supposed to be receiving basic water from communal standpipes, connect themselves illegally to municipal infrastructure &

in-turn demand access to water in their homes, whilst they, themselves have destabilized supply flow through criminal acts of illegal connections. Over the past few weeks, our teams have been busy removing illegal connections on the Florida to Nodalane reservoir. This work will continue and action will be taken against those found to be perpetrators of this kind of saboteur. Other challenges found were that of households and boundary walls built on existing pipeline route, causing a huge delay in repairs.



This newsletter has been produced by the Ugu District Municipality Communications Unit.



Editor: Mr France Zama

Writer: Zimasa Mgwili

Photographer: Norman Hlophe

Feedback can be emailed to:
Zimasa.Mgwili@ugu.gov.za

Call Centre: 08000 92837

SMS:44751

Website: www.ugu.gov.za

 Ugu District Municipality

 @District_ugu  ugu_dm



Ugu Anti Fraud & Corruption Hotline

Tel: 0801 111 660

Email: information@whistleblowing.co.za

Fax: 086 5222 816

P O Box 51006, Musgrave, 4001

INGABE UYAZI?

Umasipala waseMzumbe uhlela ukuqala izimbizo zikaMeya ngokulawulwa isigaba 4 soMthetho wokusebenza koMasipala (Municipal Systems Act no32 of 2000). Kumenywa wonke umphakathi ukuba ubeyingxenywe yalemihlango ezoqala ngawo umhlaka wezi 05 October 2022 kwaGubhuza Sportsfield ku Wadi 12. kanti ke ukuthola eminye imininingwane ungaxhumana nehovisi lakwa Public Participation kulenombolo **039 972 0005**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Umdoni municipality has temporarily closed the Scottburgh Beach with immediate effect as a consequent to water quality being non-compliant with the SA water quality standard for coastal marine waters. To get the latest updates on when they re-open, follow their FB page **'Umdoni Municipality News'**