

**MAYOR'S SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR SK MNUKWA TO THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT .....  
ON .....**

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and whippers

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Officials present

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ndiyanibulisa ngegama le ntuthukho kunye negama leNkosi yethu uYesu Krestu, Amen.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** as we conclude this years' Youth Month, I want us to be reminded about the resilience and optimism of the youth of 1976. This is an opportunity to focus on matters that confront the young people of Umzimvubu today. This is also an opportunity to reflect on the progress that we have made in empowering young people and to determine the tasks that lie ahead.

The coronavirus pandemic has had major health, economic and social effects on the lives of young people and old people. It has made worse, an already slow economy in our country. It has made businesses suffer, led to job losses and affected education and study.

Though the challenges we face are immense our young people have proven time and time again that their immense optimism and desire to make a change is very strong.

Young people must rise to the challenge of leading our recovery after the Coronavirus. We have young entrepreneurs and business owners who through their innovative ideas have been able to change their communities for the

better and create new employment opportunities. I'm talking about our young designers, charcoal makers, toilet paper manufacturers and many more. I once again affirm our commitment as the municipality to support our young people in their developmental business endeavours.

**Madam Speaker;** as the global pandemic continues to soar through the vulnerable areas in the district, Umzimvubu Local Municipality has also registered its first case of COVID-19. According to the Department of Health, the country is likely to see a drastic rise in the number of confirmed cases over the next two upcoming months.

During this month alone, we have witnessed more than 180 students test positive at Makaula SSS. The children have since been isolated at various quarantine sites across the district. Councillors are urged to encourage parents to please remain confident and entrust the government with the safety of their kids.

**Fellow Councillors;** your health, is in your hands. Please remember to always observe precautionary measures especially in public spaces.