

MAYOR'S SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR SK MNUKWA TO THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT VIRTUALLY ON THE 29th OCTOBER 2020

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and Whippery

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Officials present

Ladies and Gentlemen

I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour, Amen.

Ladies and Gentlemen; South Africa commemorated Elderly Persons Week from the 27th September to 4th October and continues to commemorate Active Ageing Week from the 25th to 31st October 2020.

The Elderly Persons Week is used to recognise the contributions of older persons and to address issues that specifically affect them. Active Aging Week on the other hand highlights the capabilities of older persons as fully participating members of society and encourages them to participate in simple exercises.

This year's commemoration comes as the COVID-19 infection in the country continues to decline and we have moved to Alert Level 1. Evidence shows that the elderly are at significantly greater risk of complications from the virus and as a society, we should take steps to protect them from the deadly pandemic.

As they reach their twilight years, we need to cherish and take care of them when they are no longer able to cope with the demands of everyday life. We must support older persons, promote, protect and advance their rights in our areas of influence.

Ladies and Gentlemen; as we continue to foster good relations with our communities, we are reminded about the important role we play as Constituency leaders in our respective wards and communities. Service Delivery continues to be the epitome of our Municipal obligation and we ought to replicate the values of our vision which is moving towards limitless possibilities.

Fellow Councillors; This past week we handed over the Marhwaqa Bridge in Ward 5, EmaXesibeni. Emva kwethuba elide abahlali bale ward besebenzisa lomfula orhwaqelisayo ukufikelela kwiinkonzo abazifumana kwiidolophu, ukanti nezo zifumaneka kumasebe ohlukeneyo kuquka noMasipala lo.

Kule projekthi kuvuleke amathuba engqesho angamashumi amathathu anesibini nekubalwa kuwo ulutsha namabhinqa alishumi elinesithandathu, abantu abakhubazekileyo ababini, abakhi abathandathu kwakunye namadoda asibhozo yaye singqumshela nje ibholorho igqityiwe. Ukanti kukwabalwa neziphiluka zayo iMarhwaqa ezizakuthi zixhamle nekubalwa kuzo iNgwegweni, iNkanji, iLubaleko kwakunye neSipolweni.

Madam Speaker; as part our contribution towards a clean and pollution free environment, it's pleasing to note that Umzimvubu Local Municipality has been affirmed as the 3rd Greenest Local Municipality in South Africa. This announcement was made by the Department of Environmental Affairs, Fisheries and Forestry during an official handover ceremony held in KwaBhaca on the 6th October 2020. The Municipality was awarded 2.5 Million for contributing a 60% support system towards the National GMC criteria used for the following categories:

- Clean and Green initiatives
- Budgetary support and equipment'
- Climate change & Energy recovery
- Awareness and Education
- Monitoring and enforcement mechanics

As one of the most developing areas in the Eastern Cape Province, we are pleased to be recognised among the Greenest Local Municipalities in the country.

Let me also acknowledge this achievement by saluting those who worked tirelessly in ensuring that we win this prestigious national award.

Ladies and Gentlemen; from the 26th October 2020 – 30th October 2020, Umzimvubu Local Municipality will hold a 4 day EXCO IDP outreach programme in all 27 wards of the Municipality. The outreach seeks to revise ward priorities in preparation for the 2020/2021 Municipal Financial Year.

This platform will provide an ideal opportunity for the political leadership to engage their respective residents on various service delivery programmes planned for the community. The schedule has been populated on local community newspapers, local community radio stations and on all official Municipal Social Media Platforms.