

MAYOR'S SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR SK MNUKWA TO THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON THE 26TH NOVEMBER 2020

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and Whippery

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; the country commemorates National Disability Rights Awareness Month annually between 3 November and 3 December. 3 December is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and also serves to commemorate the National Disability Rights Awareness Day.

The month long campaign carries weekly sub-themes which are reflected in the Medium Term Strategic Framework (2019-2024) of government. These sub-themes are intended to focus conversations on priority areas identified by the disability sector, which also link to the seven priorities of government.

The Municipality has an active Disability Forum that seeks to identify and address the issues of people with disabilities. Umzimvubu further recognizes disability as the consequence of an impairment that may be physical, mental, emotional, developmental, or some combination of these.

An amount of R 158 400 has been set aside by the Municipality for the Disability Forum to achieve its overall objectives. These activities include

community based cooperatives, developmental activities and any other ward based initiative.

Madam Speaker; as the country continues to observe the nationwide lockdown under alert level 1, it's imperative to note and stress that COVID-19 is still amongst us.

The virus took many lives and also forced the country and the rest of the world to operate under new normative ways. However, I've noted with great dismay the kind of ignorance towards the COVID-19 precautionary measures by community residents.

This kind of behaviour ought to be rebuked and I further urge the Councillors to please assist in reminding and cautioning community residents in their respective wards as we anticipate a second wave.

Fellow Councillors; let me commend the Independent Electoral Commission for the successful by-elections, held in Ward 18 and Ward 25 in KwaBhaca on Wednesday, 11 November 2020.

Municipal elections remain a pillar of sharpening our democracy at District and Municipal levels. These elections were different because they were held at a time when our country is held ransom by the ongoing scourge of the global pandemic.

Madam Speaker; on a far more pleasing note, Umzimvubu Local Municipality has completed the electrification of more than 670 households in ward 22. As pleasing as this may sound, more still needs to be done to address the many imbalances from the past that still exist.