

# REPORT BY THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR SK MNUKWA TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT KWABHACA ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2019.

Executive Committee Members

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Fellow Councillors;** Let me remind you that in 1994, the government pledged to preserve and protect heritage sites and name them appropriately after fallen struggle icons. The monuments and museums are set in place to represent and reflect on the history of our country, and cultural institutions are aligned with the Constitution and Bill of Rights that look into the recognition and respect for our diverse cultures.

It's also worth noting that Umzimvubu Local Municipality will be hosting its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tourism Celebrations at EmaXesibeni Tourism Centre in Mngwane Village. The main purpose of the event is to market Umzimvubu as a preferred Tourism Destination within the province while embracing local heritage.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** In light of the alarming increase of ghastly attacks on women in the recent past weeks, Umzimvubu Local Municipality hosted a prayer day session on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at KwaBhaca Town hall.

There are intervention policies launched since the dawn of democracy and government is continuously looking at alternatives to end the violence against women and children, but that falls on deaf ears as men continue to rape and murder.

There is an onslaught on women in this country, and gender-based violence continues with perpetrators believing they have the right to destroy the lives of others. We need stronger interventions if women are to enjoy the fruits of our democracy the same way the majority of men do. Enough is enough.

The municipality has therefore called upon the South African Police Service and the Justice System to work swiftly to remove perpetrators of gender-based violence from society through a petition submitted at the Mount Frere Magistrates Court on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Igama lamakhosikazi malibongwe.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** on a slightly different note. Local government has been a primary site for the delivery of services in South Africa post 1994. We

have made tremendous progress in delivering electricity, decent access roads and refuse removal at a local level. These rates of delivery are unprecedented in world-wide terms.

Our National Development Plan makes it clear that meeting our transformation agenda requires functional a municipality and a capable machinery at a local level that can create safe and economically sustainable areas where citizens and people can work, live and socialise.

Umzimvubu Local Municipality continues to address the issue of electricity for destitute areas. I'm also pleased to announce that 420 households have been identified by Eskom to be electrified in Ntsimangweni and Ntibeni Villages located in ward 10 and 12.

Yet despite our delivery achievements, it is clear that much needs to be done to support, educate and where needed, enforce implementation of local government's mandate for delivery. The transformation of the local government sector remains a priority for the current administration.

**Fellow Councillors;** following a mass community protest in Mpongweni Village regarding service delivery, Umzimvubu Local Municipality visited Mpongweni Village in KwaBhaca to respond to a petition submitted by local residents. According to the petition submitted by the residents on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019, the community requested water; electricity; RDP houses; toilets and access roads. The municipality has taken note of these issues and will continue engaging the relevant authorities until the matter is resolved.