

5 YEAR SERVICE DELIVERY SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR SK MNUKWA AT THE ALFRED NZO COMMUNITY RADIO ON THE 10TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Molweni bahlali baseMzimvubu, igama lam nguCllr Sobane Mnu kwa, ndinguSodolophu wase Mzimvubu. Ndilapha ndizokhotula ingxelo ngobume bukaMaspala kusukela ngonyaka 2016 kuzothi ga ngoku ku2020.

However before I proceed with the 5 Year Service Delivery Report, it should be noted that the month of September, is known as Tourism Month. This year's tourism celebrations will be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a profound impact on the global tourism sector.

Governments across the world, such as ours, have had to implement necessary measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus such that the capacity of the health system is not overwhelmed by the rate of transmission.

These measures have directly restricted the movement of people, as well as goods and services globally, with a simultaneous adverse impact on the tourism sector. Umzimvubu Local Municipality has since prepared all local tourism establishments to operate under strict precautionary measures to avoid another surge in COVID-19 related cases.

Indeed, this is now in our hands and we ought to act as responsible residents if we are to overcome this historical pandemic.

Fellow residents; In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Umzimvubu Local Municipality together with the Department of Social Development and SASSA received and donated more than 1000 food parcels across Umzimvubu. The recipients of this initiative are those who were unable to work and people from destitute backgrounds amid the regulations put in place to contain the novel coronavirus.

The initiative follows the pronouncement made by the President for a nation-wide lockdown amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. The commitment to serve our communities has never been more important as we collectively navigate the unprecedented challenges posed by this global pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected communities quite harshly, with some losing jobs and sources of income.

Ladies and Gentlemen; Umzimvubu Local Municipality has always been deeply committed to maintaining the dignity of its residents. Our previous State of the Municipality Address centred the necessity of dignity in service provision, making the argument that our pursuit for economic development and growth is

intrinsically linked to our pursuit for the realisation of dignity for our people – and a better life for all.

With 202 000 people, Umzimvubu Local Municipality housed 0.3% of South Africa's total population in 2019. Between 2009 and 2019 the population growth averaged 0.26% per annum which is significantly lower than the growth rate of South Africa as a whole (1.61%). Compared to Alfred Nzo's average annual growth rate (0.90%), the growth rate in Umzimvubu's population at 0.26% was significant lower than that of the district municipality.

Noting these figures, Umzimvubu Local Municipality together with the Department of Human Settlements managed to complete 2820 households out of 6453 households since 2016.

The Department of Human Settlements has since placed in rapid intervention strategies to mitigate the remaining backlog of 3633 households and in which we are yet to witness better milestones by the end of this current Financial Year.

Fellow residents; since we occupied office in 2016, the Municipality has invested more than 200 million on basic infrastructure including access roads, sport facilities, community halls, electrification, road maintenance and internal street surfacing. The following plight projects are only to mention a few:

- The Construction of Tyinirha Bridge.
- 9074 Household connections to electricity across Umzimvubu since 2016
- From the housing backlog mentioned above an amount of 1430 Low Cost Housing Units are currently being constructed in Rhode and Betshwana.
- The Construction of 3 Cluster Sport Facilities that benefit more than 7 villages each. (Nophoyi, Shinta and Tela)

These infrastructure based projects have significantly contributed towards the employment statistics of Umzimvubu. In 2019, Umzimvubu employed 24 300 people which is 26.62% of the total employment in Alfred Nzo District Municipality (91 200).

It's also worth noting that Employment within Umzimvubu increased annually at an average rate of 0.78% from 2009 to 2019. Though there's still much to be done, these figures can only get better if we all work together towards a common goal and vision.

Fellow Residents; the current economic outlook for Umzimvubu is satisfactory however much more needs to be done. We cannot continue to be

in the mercy of investors coming to the Municipality, we need to go out and look for investment for our towns. The success of any economic development strategy requires the town to be ready and open for business.

Umzimvubu Local Municipality has created more than 200 jobs since 2016 through its Local Economic Development Initiatives that include SMME support, Poultry rearing programme and the Donga rehabilitation programme only to mention a few. It's also pleasing to note that more than 500 business licences were issued to local businesses since the start of our council term.

Fellow residents; In aid of developing our unindustrialized local agricultural sector, Umzimvubu Local Municipality has identified 600 recipients across all 27 wards in Umzimvubu to benefit from the agricultural seedlings and watering cans programme. This equates to 60 households per ward that are expected to plough cabbage and spinach during this ploughing season. This project is also aimed at assisting local indigent residents especially those that were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The total amount invested for the project is R800 000.

Fellow residents; in our quest to transform the lives of local communities, we saw it fit to provide profitable relief to our Local SMME's during lockdown level 3 of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We placed our primary focus on street hawkers due to the conditions they operate under. The municipality procured 50 Gazebos for Street Hawkers, Sewing Material for 2 Designers and 1 Tombstone Converter for 1 Cooperative.

SMME's represent a significant vehicle to address the challenges of job creation, economic growth and equity in the country. The past few months have had a severe impact on our small businesses and a number of jobs were lost in the process. However as leaders of this Municipality we remain resilient on recovering our local economy and ensure that we alleviate unemployment and poverty.

Fellow residents; the advancement of modern technology is a growing phenomenon across the world. Covid-19 has also presented new normal virtual opportunities such as eLearning. The geographical location of our schools should not be a determining factor for limited technological

advancements but it should be a motivation for businesses to contribute towards a digital environment in our schools.

Every academic year, the municipality offer 2 best performing schools with 10 computers each school, 3g card and a printer, as part of IT Schools development program. Since 2016 the municipality has recognised Excellency as part of the Schools IT Development Programme in the following schools:

Osborn S.S.S

Senyukele S.S.S

Makaula S.S.S

Dangwana S.S.S

Daluhlanga S.S.S

Jojo S.S.S

Manzamnyama S.S.S

Mount White S.S.S

Lindelani S.S.S

Mount Ayliff High

Osborn S.P.S

Ncapai S.P.S

Mtshazi S.P.S

Gillespie S.P.S

Lower Brookneck S.P.S

Mbonda S.P.S

Govalele S.P.S

COVID-19 is an unprecedented public health crisis that has led to staggering losses in economic activity and jobs. It can also hasten the uptake of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies that could automate – and possibly eliminate – certain jobs.

Firms are facing pressures that can tip the balance towards more automation due to COVID-19. This means that our local businesses within the municipal space will need to restructure and reorganise to adjust to the post-pandemic

economic environment that will involve constraints on human interaction and risk mitigation regulations.

The 4th Industrial Revolution is now upon us and a digital environment awaits. The Municipality has installed phase 1 of the wireless connection programme in KwaBhaca. The second phase will be implemented in EmaXesibeni during the course of this current Financial Year.

This is only a brief overview of where we are as Umzinvubu and where we still need to go. There is a lot of work being done to ensure that some of the challenges that we face with governance and the state of our economy are resolved. This is the primary focus and commitment of our administration. Lastly msasazi let me highlight a few projects ezikulomqulu for the past 5 years: