

**MAYOR'S SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE ACTING MAYOR  
COUNCILLOR GCINIKHAYA MAKANDA TO THE BACK TO SCHOOL  
CAMPAIGN HELD AT KWABHACA ON 24 MARCH 2021.**

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and Whippery

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Officials present

Fellow Residents

Media Houses and public present

Ladies and Gentlemen

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

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** The President of the country, His Majesty Cyril Ramaphosa declared COVID-19 a national disaster, and announced government's urgent measures towards curbing the spread of the virus on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2020.

The virus, declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) had spread to various parts of the world, with governments working to actively contain the spread of the virus. Subsequent to the President's address made on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Umzimvubu Local Municipality welcomed the precautionary measures outlined for the containment of the novel coronavirus and decided to post-pone all public gatherings until further notice.

After a week since the national disaster was declared, a number of regulations and directives were issued out to regulate the containment of the virus but unfortunately the virus was spreading and numbers of infected people increased.

On Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2020, the President of the country pronounced that the National Coronavirus Command Council has decided to enforce a Nation-wide lockdown for 21 days with effect from today midnight, the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 until the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 midnight in order to contain the spread of the virus and save millions of South Africans from infection.

Essential services employees will be exempted from this lockdown as a measure of ensuring that necessary response will be provided. On Tuesday, 24 March 2020, we convened a special EXCO meeting and we agreed on the following measures:-

- The municipality will close until 16 April 2020 except for all municipal essential services employees (Disaster, Traffic Services & Community Waste Services).
- COVID-9 Awareness campaigns will continue until 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2020;
- Issue out Circular to all employees advising them about the lockdown with effect from Friday, 27 March 2020.
- All Infrastructure projects that are currently implemented will be put on halt until 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2020.
- All municipal Testing/Licensing centres and eNatis Services will be suspended until 16 April 2020.
- Identification of areas where water tanks will be placed.
- Extended Quarantine isolation facilities have been identified as Xesibe Tourism centre (EmaXesibeni) and Fresh Produce Market site (KwaBhaca).
- Service provider's last payment date on submitted invoices will be the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2020.

**Fellow Councillors**, during this nation-wide lockdown period as we will not be allowed to leave our homes except under controlled circumstances. Let us go and stay in our homes and practise all the effective measures to prevent infection and transfer of virus by washing of hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, practise social distancing, avoid contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms, avoid public places and cancel all our social activities.

**I am further urging you to adhere fully to the set regulations in order to prevent the spread of the virus.** The health and wellbeing of our residents and staff remains our top priority. As such, since the outbreak was announced, we launched an awareness campaign which started this week on Monday and shared reliable information about how the virus is spread and tips on how best to protect ourselves.

**Fellow Councillors;** Government is prepared to utilise the flexibility of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to institute export bans for essential medical supplies. Our government has had discussions with manufacturers and distributors of basic necessities who have indicated that there will be a continuous supply of those goods.

A Solidarity Fund has been set up, which South African businesses, organisations, and individuals and members of the international community can contribute to, of which this fund will focus on efforts to fight the spread of the virus.

**Madam Speaker;** on a slightly different note, community facilities constructed by the municipality, extend the community's capacity to conduct activities and develop links amongst people. These facilities provide focal points for formal and informal community interactions. In so doing they play a crucial economical role for ward based beneficiaries especially during construction stages.

**Fellow Councillors;** The community facilities will be handed over to the respective residents upon completion. Madam Speaker let me table the following Executive committee meeting report:-

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**I THANK YOU!!!**