

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONORABLE MAYOR SOBANE MNUKWA DURING A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021.

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and Whippers

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Media Houses

Government Official

Ladies and Gentlemen

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

Ladies and Gentlemen; during the month of September we celebrate all the men and women who have kept our traditions alive.

We celebrate the crafters, the sculptors, the weavers, the musicians, the poets, the writers, the storytellers, the trackers, the healers and most importantly the indigenous languages and cultures within Umzimvubu;

AmaXesibe namaBhaca.

Heritage doesn't only find expression in dress, rituals, food, music, art and language. It also finds expression in our natural world. It is the inheritance passed down from generation to generation, linking the present to the past.

This year's Heritage Day Celebrations took place in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has taken a toll on human life, on communities and on our economy.

However since the progression to level 2 of the lockdown, the country has seen the opening of tourism activities. This has also brought about a long awaited economic relief to our local accommodation establishments.

On the 23rd of September, we hosted heritage day celebrations at Sophia Park in KwaBhaca. We enjoyed the day with various cultural groups around Umzimvubu. This was not a competition as previously stated but rather an exhibition of cultural diversity in our area.

Fellow Councillors; we are at the dawn of local government elections and ought to robustly communicate our service delivery milestones and achievements for the past five years.

This is rather a public report to the community as mandated by the transcripts of Batho Pele and the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. We have since identified Ward 14 in KwaBhaca and Ward 05 EmaXesibeni to host the Municipal IMBIZO Programme.

This programme will be conducted over a period of two days. On the 13th October the first segment of the programme will take place at EmaXesibeni and the second segment will take place in KwaBhaca on the 15th October 2021.

Madam Speaker; allow me to present the following executive committee report for Council noting and consideration. Let me table only ten items that require Council approval and the rest of the items are for noting.