

WELCOMING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HERWORSHIP, CLLR ZUKISWA NDEVU DURING THE 9TH ULM ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW IN KWABHACA ON THE 23RD MARCH 2022.

Programme Director

Speaker

Chief Whip

Executive Committee Members

MPAC Chair

Fellow Councillors

Council of Churches

Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform

Alfred Nzo District Municipality

Mhlontlo Local Municipality

Tsolo Agricultural Rural Development Institute

Afri Vet

Baynesfield Beef Master

BKB Institution

Umzimvubu Municipal Manager, Senior Managers and Officials

Media Houses present

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to welcome you all to the second day of the 9th Annual ULM Agricultural Show. The theme for this year is "Improving Agriculture, Improving Lives". It signifies the importance of preserving our wealth, whilst embracing our agricultural activities and enormities within our region.



In line with this theme, the main objective for this show is to create opportunities for smallholder cooperatives, to share information and experience best practices from each other. This, on how to organize and better manage their agricultural affairs effectively and efficiently. We also brought together experts from various disciplines such as finance, markets, agro-processing, capacity building and training, to collectively find solutions to challenges facing cooperatives in the sector.

As part of my 100 days in office, I committed to SMME development and the advancement of our Farming activities in our region. With this said, we have created a viable platform for our local farmers to trade and generate income. These newly built Auction Pens have become a custom trading option for local buyers, and we intend to see jobs being created, through the empowerment of our local SMMEs. These facilities will also be used as the official home of the ULM Annual Agricultural Show.

Programme Director; The Municipality has also seen a need to invest in more auction pens for this ideal agricultural investment. We have identified a site along the R405, adjacent to the Eskom Power Station, opposite Badibanise Village in a portion of Erf 351, KwaBhaca. This investment will hopefully see our local farmers gaining further traction from commercial buyers.

Ladies and Gentlemen; In the same breath, the Municipality has pledged to provide more support to local SMMEs in the form of trading equipment. We have since set aside a sum of **R 1.3 million** for the



procurement of trading material and equipment for at least 15 local SMME's.

Speaker; As I conclude, I want to remind our fellow residents that over the next coming years, society will pay more and more attention to how farmers produce food.

But as citizens, we must also pay attention to how we consume food, and we must ask ourselves if we are supporting sustainable farming in our food choices.

Because, to build sustainable food systems, we all have choices to make, and we all have work to do. And if we share the work, we can also share the reward.

Ladies and Gentlemen; with that said, I look forward to enjoying this programme with you and wish you all a productive exhibition.

I Thank you,

Delivered by the Honourable Mayor,
Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu

