

AM AHLATHI STATE OF THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS 2024

AN ELECTRIFYING STANDSTILL AT AM AHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

On September 11, 2024, Amahlathi Local Municipality experienced a remarkable event: the State of the Municipal Address by Mayor Cllr Nomakhosazana Nongqayi. Held at the Mzwandile Wilson Fanti Recreational Centre in Stutterheim, the day was filled with energy and community spirit.

The day began with a briefing session that set the tone. As excitement built, a vibrant procession started, featuring a drill team and horses leading the way. This parade escorted the mayor and dignitaries through Hill Street, capturing the attention of residents.

The entire town paused to witness this momentous occasion. Locals gathered along the streets, many taking time off work and duties. Cheers and applause filled the air, reflecting the community's support for their leaders and the municipality's vision.

Mayor Nongqayi's address was met with eager anticipation. As she spoke about past achievements and future plans, her words resonated with the crowd. The energy in the air reinforced a sense of hope and collective purpose among the residents.

The Amahlathi 2024 State of the Municipal Address showcased the beauty of community spirit and the potential for positive change when people come together.



SOMA 2024 LANDMARK MOMENT XHOLORHA INTERNAL ROADS



During the recent municipal address, Honorable Mayor Cllr. Nomakhosazana Nongqayi shared thrilling news for the Amahlathi community. She announced the exciting project to pave the internal roads in Xholorha, finally addressing the community's calls for improvement.

Valued at over 12.6 million, this project will not only transform our roads but also spark renewed hope among residents. It promises to create numerous job opportunities for local community members and support small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs), driving economic growth in the area.

This initiative marks a significant step forward and shows that positive change is within our reach. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant community, paving the way for a bright future for all.



AM AHLATHI BUILDS ITS TOURISM INDUSTRY USING ITS HERITAGE AS A FOUNDATION



To mark Tourism and Heritage Month, the Eastern Cape Parks Tourism Agency hosted a provincial tourism launch at Eagles Ridge Country House in Stutterheim on the first week of September.

The tourism sector is crucial for black economic empowerment, particularly in townships with emerging black-owned bed and breakfast establishments. This sector is helping to redress historical injustices and bridge the gap left by the tourism industry that predominantly supported white-owned businesses before the democratic transition in 1994. By promoting tourism, municipalities create jobs, stimulate local businesses, and enhance infrastructure.

Mayor Cllr Nomakhosazana Nongqayi stated, "As we launch the Tourism Month, Amahlathi Local Municipality, honor the heritage created since the 1700s when King Phalo and Rharhabe crossed the Kei River into this part of the land. The heritage created by warrior men led by Chief Maqoma, and Chief Sandile, who played key roles in the wars of resistance. They sacrificed their lives to the preservation of our people against the most brutal genocide our native land have everseen. Today, we connect this heritage with tourism through our historic hiking trails and other tourist attraction artifacts to once again this legacy in a unique manner that defines us as a tourist destination. In this way, we have our history preserved in who we are".

The Mayor also mentioned the three tourism routes that connect Amahlathi with the world around it: R63 via Kei Road, R152 via Keiskammahoek, N6 via Cathcart, and Stutterheim. It is worth noting that Keiskammahoek and Stutterheim have a particularly rich history in the struggle in South Africa.

Amahlathi Local Municipality is integrating this rich struggle history with local tourism industry to enhance local economic development.

The Mayor concluded that the newly established partnership with Lamsprunge Municipality of Germany, will transform the hiking trails into Sustainable Development Trails. This initiative will help improve the local tourism infrastructure and strengthen economy of AmahlathiLocal Municipality".



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OFFICIALS FROM GERMANY, LAMSPRINGE MUNICIPALITY RETURNED TO AMAHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



Officials from Germany, Lamsprunge Municipality returned to Amahlathi Local Municipality.

The primary purpose of this visit was to identify areas of collaboration and to discuss terms of reference for the expert that will handle the relationship between the two municipalities. It was agreed that upon three areas of focus, one being tourism, agriculture and exchange programs to benefit the youth of Amahlathi Municipality.

Additionally, since young people make up the majority of ALM's population, there is an opportunity to capacitate them new skills in order for them to be relevant in the market. This is a very exciting partnership for the future as it is a step forward in building and growing Amahlathi together.



EASTERN CAPE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT VISITS CATHCART FOR TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S DAY

As South Africa celebrated Women's Month in August, the Eastern Cape MEC for Social Development, Bukiwe Fanta, visited Cathcart to observe Orange Day.

Orange Day, initiated by the UNiTE Campaign in 2016, is held on the 25th of each month to raise awareness and promote action against violence toward women and girls. This event aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are international objectives set by the UN to promote sustainable development. By hosting this Orange Day event in Cathcart, the community actively supports SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Additionally, on this day, certificates were awarded for a sewing program conducted through a Skills Development Program. This program was organized by the accredited institution Inkwenkwezi College in collaboration with the Ikhwezi Women's Centre.



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NEWLY ELECTED WARD COUNCILLOR BROUGHT SCHOOL ESSENTIALS AND BLANKETS TO THE NEEDY SCHOOL CHILDREN AT KEISKAMMAHOEK.



The month of July is classified as the Mandela Month since the birthday of the former president Nelson Mandela falls in July. The mayor of the Amahlathi Local Municipality with the newly elected Ward Councillor, concluded the Mandela Month by giving back to the needy school children of Keiskammahoek. On this day, the mayor demonstrated her support for upholding the dignity of an African child. The gifts were sponsored by SANRAL and they included flip files, toothbrushes, toothpastes, vaselines, aqueous creams, school shoes, sanitary towels, and shoe polishes. Elders and those with impairments were among the community members who benefited blankets from the mayor's good deeds. Mandela's vision of a better life for all was embodied by the joy and smiles on the faces of those attended including community leaders, councillor, parents and teachers of Mnandi and Sonwabile Primary Schools as well as Rabula Secondary School.



MANDELA DAY 67 MINUTES IN LANGDRAAI



The Amahlathi Local Municipality spent the 67 minutes for Mandela Day at (SCHOOL NAME) in Langdraai. The Mayor, Cllr Nomakhosazana Nongqayi brought her scores of workforce for landscaping, grasscutting, stone painting and trimming of the trees. The members of the council also graced the event led by the Speaker Cllr Mlahleki and the hosting Councillor of Ward 4 Cllr Charlie. After the 67 minutes the mayor proceeded with issuing of the Mandela Day gifts. The gifts were food, blankets, school supplies, lotions, and sanitary towels. Supporting the event were also the IGR members from the Department of Human Settlement, Social Development, Health and Rural Development & Agrarian Reform.



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WARD COMMITTEE TRAINING



Amahlathi local Municipality conducted an Awareness Campaign conducted at Jongile Nompondo High on the 30th July 2024. Event aimed at promoting the culture of reading under the theme: "Read and Know".

Learners reviewed inspirational and motivational books that also complimented women on how strong they are. There were two books that were reviewed (i.e. Only the pot knows how hot the fire is & Yakhala indoda).

This campaign has assisted the learners to be able to examine and comprehend literature well.



In an effort to strengthen and improve coordination of the disaster management function, ALM is embarking on training ward committees who are seen as the link between the Municipality and communities through ward councillors. The municipality is prone to inclement weather conditions such as heavy rains resulting in floods, strong winds, grass and veld fires.

The training started with the Stutterheim cluster on the 24th July 2024 and is to be rolled out to other clusters during the month of August. Stakeholders involved in the capacitation included ALM - Housing, ADM- Disaster Management, SASSA and Social development. Councillors in the clusters were also part of the training.

Legislation, processes, roles and expectations from ward committees in collating data on the ground were clearly outlined during the session. It was a very interactive session with the aim of an improved understanding of the disaster management function at ward level.





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AM AHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PROJECT UPDATES



KIESKAMMAHOEK RECREATINAL CENTRE

The project commenced 30 March 2023, and 24 job opportunities were created. Currently still working to date is 10 employees, 3 Small, Medium, Micro Enterprises (SMME's) benefited on the project, with over R368 641.86 spent on Local SMME's and R110 100 spent on Rentals. The project is expected to end on the 30 September 2024.



MBAXA COMMUNITY HALL

The project started on the 30 October 2023 and 20 employees that benefited from this project. Furthermore, 16 employees are currently working and 1 SMME employed which also started in July 2024. The project will end on the 30 September 2024.



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PROMOTING CLEANLINESS IN AM AHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The cleanliness of our surroundings significantly impacts our mental well-being in our daily lives. In Amahlathi Local Municipality, we take pride in maintaining a clean environment, recognizing that the benefits extend beyond mere aesthetics and environmental sustainability.

Living in a clean town not only enhances the beauty of our community but also promotes mental health. In contrast, residing in dirty areas can lead to increased stress, anxiety, and cognitive difficulties. Thus, it is crucial for governments and communities to understand the connection between environmental conditions and mental health.

To foster a cleaner, healthier municipality, we have initiated the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) clean-up campaign. This initiative not only addresses litter and pollution but also actively engages our community in promoting cleanliness. Through these efforts, we are cultivating a sustainable and inviting environment that supports the mental and physical well-being of our citizens.

As mental health advocacy gains importance in our society, our commitment to a clean Amahlathi Local Municipality becomes even more essential. Together, we can create a thriving community that prioritizes both cleanliness and mental health.



LOCAL DESIGNERS CREATE DRESS FOR MAYOR

The LPQSS Indalo Cooperative in Stutterheim has designed a dress for the mayor of Amahlathi Local Municipality.

For four years, this unique fashion house has been on an innovative journey, featuring six members and one employee. One member shared, "Fashion reflects our connection to different cultures. Each piece we create tells part of our story. Our skills and creativity inspire us to make our clients' wardrobes a canvas for our multicultural journey."

The cooperative was thrilled to be chosen by the mayor for her State of the Municipality Address dress. While they have worked with many clients, this opportunity was especially meaningful, as the mayor is from Stutterheim. They aim to showcase local talent and support the municipal economy. They added, "We feel honored by her trust in us for such a special occasion."



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MUNICIPAL MANAGER
DR Z. SHASHA

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE OF THE AM AHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Institutional Performance Update: Quarter 4 2023/24

We are pleased to report a slight improvement in our institutional performance for the fourth quarter of the 2023/24 fiscal year. The overall score stands at 87.84%, reflecting an increase of 0.83% from the third quarter's score of 87.01%.

Highlights

- Mid-Year Adjustments: The Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) was revised mid-year. Some operational targets were removed or rephrased in accordance with available funds, aligning with the SMART principles recommended by the Auditor General.
 - Impact of Weather on Infrastructure: Severe winds caused the collapse of walls at the Mbaxa Community Hall, leading to delays in progress and in insurance payouts from the service provider.
 - New Developments: The Stutterheim Recreational Centre was officially launched in May 2024, marking a significant achievement in our community development efforts during this quarter.
 - Keiskammahoek Recreation Centre: Progress has been made on the Keiskammahoek Recreation Centre, primarily focused on quantifying special items and sourcing quotes for necessary materials.
 - Revenue Collection Concerns: Billed income revenue collection was at 56%, falling short of the target of 85%.
 - Revenue Enhancement Strategy: While progress on the implementation of the Revenue Enhancement Strategy has been slow, the established committee continues to meet quarterly to address these challenges.
 - Youth Employment Initiatives: We successfully employed 408 young individuals through the Community Youth Development Programme, contributing positively to local employment.
- As we move forward, we will continue to monitor our performance and implement strategies to enhance our outcomes. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our community.

Vision

A resilient, sustainable and
people central local
municipality

Mission

A model municipality in partnership
with its community through quality
service delivery local economic
development and public
participation

Values

Accountability
Model
Accessibility
Healthy
Loyalty
Authentic
Trust
Honesty
Integrity