



Phulaphula



July - September 2015

Note from the Editorial

The Communications Unit wishes to publish Phulaphula, the Amahlathi Newsletter to all the stakeholders of the Municipality for the purpose of strengthening communication. It is the wish of the communications unit to strive to be at the centre of co-ordination for both the internal and external communication of the Municipality.

We would like to create a culture of engaging through dialogue, so that everyone will participate in ensuring that we publish this newsletter on a quarterly basis. By so doing we are hopeful that all the Departments have a share in terms of coverage.

This publication takes stock of all the achievements and challenges the Municipality, has gone through in the first quarter of the 2015/2016 financial year. In this regard we are proud to reveal that on 6 & 7 August 2015 we hosted a youth summit focusing on youth development and ways of empowering local youth.

During Women's month in August we held two events, celebrating women and what they stand for and went further to capacitating local women in business.

In the Heritage month the jovial annual heritage celebration event took place in the Cathcart town hall, bringing a festival spirit to the quiet town.

In pursuance of public participation the municipality partnering with Amathole District Municipality held a civic education workshop on the importance of public participation.

One of the municipality's key mandate is the development and promotion of local talent, an event promoting local film makers, writers and painters was held in Ndakana, while the Community Services Department revived the Keiskammahoek library as an initiative to promote literacy.

We further call upon our readers to make inputs and suggestions on how we can improve this publication and contact the Communications Office Ms Anathi Nyoka or Thandisa Swartz at 043 683 5008 or Email : anyoka@amahlathi.gov.za

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Summit paves the way for Amahlathi youth

Story: Anathi Nyoka and Thandisa Swartz

Over 200 youths from all 20 wards of Amahlathi Local Municipality gathered at the Mlungisi Community Commercial Park in Stutterheim for the second youth summit hosted by Amahlathi Local Municipality from 5 to 6 August 2015. The theme of the summit was “Youth Moving South Africa Forward”

The dignitaries who shared words of wisdom with the delegates were the Honorable Mayor Cllr M Peter, The Chief Whip Cllr N Mlahleki and Cllr N Busika Portfolio Head Strategic Management Services that is how serious the Municipality viewed this summit. The following stakeholders were represented, NYDA, ECDC, Amahlathi Youth Council, Amahlathi Sports Council, Imbumba Consultants, Moral Regeneration Movement, Love Life, Stutt Youth with passion, GIZ, IEC, Department of Correctional Services, Department of Social Development and Special Programmes, Department of Home Affairs and SAPS.

Deliberations ranged from Youth development with particular focus to opportunities that are available for young people in order to make them self sufficient. Amahlathi Local Municipality wants to create a society that enables its citizens more especially its young people to think creatively so as to boost its local economy. It is against this background that the municipality has sought to address this through a meeting of minds in order to discuss matters of common interest. Gone are the days when government thinks and do for its people but rather a more interactive approach ensures that ideas are discussed. To the municipality the summit was not just another talk show, there is commitment to implement key resolutions of the summit. The Honorable Mayor Cllr M Peter in his speech emphasized the importance of young people equipping themselves with education so as to enable them in participating and benefiting from opportunities created by the municipality. The Mayor further encouraged delegates to take advantage of the craft programme and many other available business opportunities initiated by the municipality. The Council is fully committed to work closely with the youth in order to move them away from the predicament they have found themselves in, talking about a people centered government.

Lubabalo Charles the director of the Stutterheim Youth with Passion spoke of main stream drug and substance abuse which is killing our youth all over our municipality, pointing to it as the main cause of violence within our communities. He said that the mission of the organization was to encourage the youth to stop drugs and alcohol abuse as “the seeds of today are the flowers of tomorrow” noting that if we allowed the seed to die then that would cause us to lose faith in the thought of someday having these “flowers” blossom. The organization’s mission is to also encourage the youth to stay in school as well as to participate in sporting activities and other projects that the municipality and other organizations have developed. He closed off by stating that the people who sell drugs within communities are parents themselves and they need to consider the fact that these are the very communities in which they raise their own children. He also encouraged the parents of the children who use drugs to be supportive towards them. The summit was well organized and there was a degree of commitment from the delegates. The delegates were fired up and it was a battle of ideas. This just proves that when young people are brought together something positive and constructive comes out. The notion that our young people are lazy is not true such that we have to keep them busy with constructive things. Investing in our youth is what our municipality has committed into for it is through them that our country is to flourish. So the more we engage our youth the better the opportunities for our country. The Amahlathi Local Municipality fully supports youth development and is going to ensure that resolutions of the Summit are implemented.

Celebrating our heritage in Cathcart

Story: Anathi Nyoka



Amahlathi Councillors and guests

Amahlathi Local Municipality celebrated its Heritage Day on the 25 September 2015 at the Cathcart Town Hall. The theme of this year is “Reclaiming, restoration and celebrating our Living heritage”. September is Heritage month in our country. It is in this month that we celebrate our diversity and also remember who we are as a nation and where we are coming from. So Amahlathi was not going to miss an opportunity of celebrating its own heritage thus fostering social cohesion. Members of the community came in large numbers wearing their traditional outfits. There was dancing, singing

and ululations all the way as people gathered to celebrate their own heritage as it forms part of our living heritage.

Heritage is loosely defined as “what we have gained from our fore fathers and what we are transmitting to the future generations”. Heritage day seeks to transmit what we have inherited from our fore fathers. Our country is currently confronted by western influence and as result our young people have no knowledge of their own history, which leads them to aspire to be other people. This is a great danger as one will never substitute his/her own identity. Our culture, traditions and customs define who we are as African people and it is what makes us unique from other people. So the whole notion of celebrating our heritage seeks to instil pride and restore our own dignity as a people.

It was wonderful to see old ladies dancing and singing with pride and joy. The poets were not going to be left out as praise and singing was the order of the day. The dance groups that were present really proved that knowledge is being transmitted to young people of today because the skill shown was just out of this world. These types of occasions foster social cohesion for young and old get together and discuss matters of common interest thus leading to nation building. Heritage day is of great importance for at a particular time of our history our people were denied opportunities of this nature instead they were made to celebrate heritage of other people through many forms like education, statues, Eurocentric structures and even language. So this democratic government has deemed it fit to reclaim, restore and celebrate our living heritage. We owe it to young children to share importance of our history and frankly we need to develop the habit of documenting lest we forget where we are coming from. History is a dialogue between the past and the present in preparation for the future. So as we are building the new nation we should not only focus on economic issues but also in values upon which the new nation is built. Heritage day steers us to the right direction and as such we should never allow anything to reduce this day to a “braai day”. Amahlathi Local Municipality is fully behind initiatives of preserving and promoting of our heritage hence the annual support to heritage programmes.

Promotion of Amahlathi Artists

Article by: Thandisa Swartz



Amahlathi Local Municipality Councillors and Traditional Leader

held in July, but having done it in August this year does not change its purpose. She then informed the crowd that encouraging these artists to continue with their work also promoted proudly South African goods, which would in turn improve our country's economy. "Let us take forward what the likes of Mqhayi and others started".

The Honorable Mayor Cllr M Peter welcomed everyone officially and gave recognition to the artists, he said, "We as the Amahlathi Local Municipality want to continue supporting our local artists as we are not all going to be academics and these artists are the very people that help us embrace our culture". No one else can better tell our story than one of us. He then continued to say that, "ngawo onke amaxesha iinkosi zethu bekumele ukuba zizo ezijongene nenkcubeko kuba ingabo abajongene nokuncedisa ukuphucula ezenkcubeko".

Mr Daluxolo Papu from the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture the guest speaker encouraged film makers, drawers/painters and dancer to work harder and persevere. He highlighted that in every journey there are challenges and every road has curves, they just have to hold tight and look ahead. The artists were also encouraged to get in contact with the likes of the National Lottery and Film Makers Association offices in East London and other similar institutions. He also informed artists of different industries that are available to assist them with skills development as well as training, organisations such as the Amahlathi Local Municipality, DSRAC, SEDA etc. which required interested bodies to fill in application forms for their data base purposes and more. He also told artists of a Craft Mania that would be held in November where all crafts, films and more would be exhibited and encouraged them to go to the festival or at least send their material through." I leave you with these words, "masiwasebenziseni amacandelo karulumente. Abantu ababekiweyo kwindawo ababekwe kuzo ngurulumente babekelwe ukuze babeluncedo emphakathini wonke.

The Development and Planning Department headed by portfolio head Cllr Qaba celebrated local film makers, writers and painters in Ndakana Tribal Hall and the hall was filled to the capacity with Councillors and stakeholders from government parastatals and the community at large.

Cllr Qaba told the masses of the purpose of the day, she said that such events were made to encourage local artists... "We are taking these lights and placing them on the table, so that the light they produce shines for all to see." She said the film makers, writers and painters' event was usually

Celebrating Women and what they stand for

Article by: Anathi Nyoka and Lungiswa Sinazo Mvandaba

The struggle for Liberation is wrongly attributed to mainly men at the expense of the sacrifice and involvement of women in the struggle. I suppose the history of women in struggle is not well documented, thus creating an impression that women did not participate in the liberation struggle.

Women have always been instrumental in the liberation struggle for they were there to ensure that they pick up the pieces. It is women who brought up children of either imprisoned exiled or murdered freedom fighters.

It is women who marched against pass laws in large numbers without fear or favor. Sadly after 1994 women are subjected to new challenges namely witchcraft, raising children single handedly, are vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, subject of abuse and marginalization in the corporate world.

Well there are positive spin offs as we have capable women, who are ministers and mayors. One gets a sense that a handful of women are independent living their lives without depending on men. The challenge is how one strike the balance for you cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong'.

While women are progressing men should be assured that they are still important in the society. The women of today must stop standing in the periphery but must come to the center and be direct participants in the reconstruction and development of our country. The entrepreneurial space is not for men only but all members of society. Women must walk tall and be proud of themselves.

The Amahlathi Local Municipality and Amathole District Municipality partnering with government parastatals celebrated Women's Month at the Mlungisi Community Commercial Park with community representatives from all 20 wards of Amahlathi Local Municipality. The key focus areas were to address challenges faced by women in everyday life and finding ways to restore their dignity . The speakers of the day touched on a number of issues such as empowering and building women, fighting abuse against women and children, high rate of teenage pregnancy and women being the mostly affected people by HIV & AIDS.

The Amathole District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr N Khonza was the keynote address she stated that there are things that are expected to be done by women. They are expected to treat themselves in a respectable manner in order for the community to respect them. Respect and dignity should not be demanded but earned and she emphasized on how women should present themselves in the communities they live in. She said, "We need not to stigmatize those who are infected and affected by HIV & AIDS, but support them, given that Government focus is going back to basics and retrenching gender mainstreaming through the values of the freedom charter, the name of women will be restored".

Capacitating local women in business

Story: by: Anathi Nyoka

One of the mandates of the Amahlathi Local Municipality is to empower local business people so as to boost the economy of Amahlathi thus leading to self-reliance, sharing of ideas and creating partnerships.

Celebrating Women's Month under the 2015 theme "Women united in moving South Africa forward". The Amahlathi Local Municipality Women Caucus hosted a seminar for local women in business. The seminar aimed at capacitating women in business and looking at ways and solutions they can utilize in dealing with their challenges.

One of the key elements in becoming a good leader is to believe in one's self and by doing so we unconsciously, letting the pride enrich others. The Chief Whip Cllr N Mlahleki said, "As women we need to unite and stand firm in protecting our dignity. The plight should be about encouraging and motivating women to enter in business and leadership positions in a world that is dominated by men.

A number of presentations were made by our very own, The Chief Financial Officer Ms Joyce Ntshinga, Ms Ziyanda Ntunge from Supply Chain Management and Ms Qhawekazi Majobela from the Development and Planning Department under the Local Economic Development unit, highlighting opportunities and services that the municipality is offering in supporting local businesses.

Women are very important beings in our society, they are capable of doing everything and they stand for the truth. Therefore they should utilise the information and opportunities provided by government to expand and sustain their businesses, and take South Africa forward.



Attendees of seminars



**Members of women caucus
Cllr N Mlahleki and Cllr Nkunkuma and LED Officer Ms Q Majobela**



Civic education on public participation

Story by: Lungisa Sinazo Mvandaba



ADM Speaker Cllr S Janda, ALM Municipal Manager Mr BK Socikwa, ALM Speaker Cllr N Magwaxaza

The Amahlathi Local Municipality and Amathole District Municipality conducted a civic education workshop for Amahlathi Ward Committees on 11 September 2015 at Mlungisi Community Commercial Park in Stutterheim.

The aim of the workshop was to enhance public participation in order for communities to take ownership and be decision makers in municipal programmes.

The key objective of the workshop was to educate community members about the processes that are happening inside municipalities, the IDP, SDBIP, indigent registration,

supply chain process, recruitment and selection process, disaster management, powers and functions of local municipality. The Amahlathi Local Municipality Municipal Manager Mr. B.K Socikwa presented all the functions and responsibilities of a district and a local municipality i.e the building of toilets (sanitation), water, roads, street lights and community development in general.

The Amahlathi Local Municipality Speaker Councillor N Magwaxaza and Amathole District Municipality Speaker Councillor S Janda were amongst the attendees, Cllr Janda highlighted that before 1994 the country was controlled by few individuals and general citizens had no say in decision making. "Now that we have gained control and making our own decisions there are things that still need to be done." Public participation is everyone's responsibility, the top down approach is a thing of the past. Gone are the days when government thinks and does for the people, that has since been replaced by a caring Government with policies informed by the plight of its people.



Ward Committees from all 20 wards of Amahlathi Local Municipality

Keiskammahoek Library is Revived

Pictures: Thandisa Swartz



Cllr Hobo, Mr Vara, Cllr Manyika and students from participating schools

Amahlathi Local Municipality hosted the re-opening of the Keiskammahoek Library at the Springbok Hall in Keiskammahoek on the 23rd of September 2015. This programme was coordinated by the Community Services Department in order to revive the town's library which was closed over a long period of time due to renovations.

Mr Vara (Director Community Services) said, "amongst many other issues aimed at improving the level of education in South Africa, the United Nations aim was to have at least half of South Africa literate by the end of 2015 and investigations must still be conducted to learn how much of this has been achieved".



Displaying the importance of literacy



Participating students in the activities of the day

Some of the activities of the day were book reviews in both English and Xhosa, spelling bee (Spelling competition) in English and isiXhosa, reading in English and isiXhosa as well as debating which took place between Hector Peterson Senior Secondary School which was debating against Vukile Tshwete S.S.S. and their topic was "Libraries are the way to go and not technology". The second group was ST Matthews S.S.S which debated against Kulana S.S.S. and the topic which they were debating on was

"Marriage across the colour line causes confusion".

The final debate was between Hector Peterson S.S.S. and ST Matthews who both seemed to be quite strong teams. The debate was quite intense, yet rather informative. The topic in the final round was "The use of fallen heroes for political point scoring is unethical" and the best team won, it had to be our very own ST Matthews S.S.S from ward 3.

Amahlathi Youth Summit

Pictures : Lungiswa Sinazo Mvandaba and Thandisa Swartz



The Chief Whip Cllr N Mlahleki, Mayor Cllr M Peter, Portfolio Head Strategic Management Cllr N Busika, Guest Speaker Mr Siyamthanda Rexe



Facilitator Mr M Tubela, Cllr N Busika



Delegates



Delegates

Heritage Day in Cathcart

Pictures: Thandisa Swartz



Portfolio Head Development and Development Cllr P Qaba, and the guest speaker Mrs Tapile



The Chief Whip Cllr N Mlahleki



Portfolio Head Community Services Cllr A Hobo



Traditional Leader Mr K Sandile

Promotion of Amahlathi Artists

Pictures : Lungiswa Sinazo Mvandaba and Thandisa Swartz



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