



CHRIS HANI
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
SUSTAINING GROWTH
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CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

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CHDM ELECTS CLLR LUSANDA SIZANI AS NEW EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) has elected, Cllr Lusanda Sizani as the new Executive Mayor during a Special Council meeting held 08 September 2023. Cllr Sizani replaces former Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela who resigned as the Executive Mayor and member of council in the District Municipality with effect from 31 August 2023.

Cllr Sizani was nominated unopposed and duly elected as the new Executive Mayor of CHDM. In his inaugural speech the newly elected Executive Mayor thanked his predecessor and members of the Executive Committee for ensuring that services are delivered to the people and in creating a better life for all.

Cllr Sizani pledged his commitment towards smooth running of the institution, especially, in improving water and sanitation service provision, maximising revenue collection through installation of smart meters, advance integrated local economic development, job creation and audit outcomes.

‘We will champion service delivery to ensure that much needed services are delivered to our people. As the collective, we must function effectively and always put people first irrespective of our political affiliations’. He further declared Tuesdays as water days with a particular focus on water services provision across the district.

Cllr Sizani is no stranger to local government and brings wealth of experience after having served as Portfolio Head for Budget and Treasury Office in the district municipality and Councillor in the Dr AB Xuma between 2011 -2015.

The Executive Mayor also announced the following Councillors as members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs):

- Cllr Noncedo September Caba : Deputy Executive Mayor and MMC – Water Service provision
- Cllr Nosipho Papiyana : MMC Integrated Planning and Development
- Cllr Thembisile Bobo : MMC Special Programmes Unit
- Cllr Bongeka Nobuntu : MMC Infrastructure Development
- Cllr Sinomtha Lali : MMC Health and Community Services
- Cllr Thumeka Bikwana : MMC Corporate Services

Cllr Sizani will also be responsible for the Budget and Treasury Office.

Cllr Ken Clark congratulated the newly elected Executive Mayor and committed to support all council programmes directed at uplifting the community. The sitting was also attended by Ms Nonceba Kontsiwe, the MEC for DSRAC, Member of Parliament Mr Xola Nqola, former Executive Mayor, Mr Wongama Gela, Advocate Mini, Chris Hani Development Agency Board Chairperson, Speakers, Mayors and Executive Mayors from local municipalities.



The new CHDM Executive Mayor congratulated by former Executive Mayor



CHDM Council Speaker, Cllr Jongumzi Cengani during the election of the new Executive Mayor



Executive Mayor, Cllr Lusanda Sizani



Executive Mayor, Cllr Lusanda Sizani and Deputy Executive Mayor, Cllr Noncedo September with members of Mayoral Committee

ELECTRIFICATION OF GQAGA VILLAGE NOW IN PROGRESS

The Upper Gqaga electrification project has commenced following a contractor handover by the CHDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Lusanda Sizani and Dr AB Xuma Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Siyabulela Zangqa to the community of Gqaga on 21 September 2023.

The District Municipality availed financial resources for the project which will enable electrification of 4 villages under Gqaga. A sum of R12m has, thus, been channelled towards electrification of Gulandoda, Msintsana, Mbabakazi and Zabasa villages. The project will benefit the community, not only with access to electricity, but also with job opportunities which will be created, especially for the youth.

It is worth noting that the project will help unlock long-standing water supply processing from the Gqaga Treatment Works to further benefit more than 10 surrounding villages with access to clean drinking water. The Treatment Works has not been functioning due to electricity connectivity and the community demanding electrification to households be prioritized prior the water treatment works.

The handover was preceded by a community engagement where the Mayors explained the project scope and importance of electrification of the water treatment works as part of speeding up water service provision in villages that are affected. Mr Monwabisi Nyathela, a member of the community, expressed his deep appreciation on the project saying “in as much as we need water as the community, electricity has also been our top priority. I must also appreciate the gracious support from the Chris Hani District Municipality that has made it possible for our local municipality to finally implement this project and bring on board the electricity contractor here today. We also, thank the municipality for committing to electrify all the affected villages across Gqaga area.”

Cllr Siyabulela Zangqa, the Mayor of Dr A B Xuma local municipality took the opportunity to also educate the community about government processes and coordination of service delivery initiatives across all spheres of local government. He further advised the community that “Government services or initiatives should not be turned away at any given time.”

CHDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Lusanda Sizani pleaded with the Gqaga community to unite protect and own government projects directed at them and further safeguard municipal infrastructure designed to serve them. “This Water Treatment Works is constructed for the benefit of the people of Gqaga and surrounding villages, a rare feature in rural villages, and this exercise is done as government commitment to better the lives of the people. Chris Hani District municipality exists within its local municipalities, therefore, we are committed in supporting all our local municipalities in our space. Gqaga Water Treatment Works electrical connection will be done simultaneously with the electrification of households and this project is expected to be completed within six months,” Cllr Sizani stated

The scope of work for Gqaga Water Treatment includes main pipelines; three booster pumpstations; supply and installation of to 50kl and 100kl steel panel reservoirs; 300 kl concrete command reservoir; gravity main pipelines and access roads.

The Project has been practically complete although not operational due to electricity connection issues, which is critical as the plant is designed to be electricity driven due to its capacity. Applications to ESKOM to have the plant electrified were lodged but reached a halt when the community and surrounding villages demanded electrification of their area, and a series of engagements ensued with all affected parties to reach a consensus.



CHDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Lusanda Sizani during Gqaga Electrification Project Contractor handover



CHDM Council Speaker, Cllr Jongumzi Cengani addressing community members



Dr AB Xuma Mayor, Cllr Siyabulela Zangqa



Gqaga Water Treatment works





CHDM PRIORITISE CRADOCK BULK SEWER SERVICES

CHDM is making giant steps in addressing , sewer spillage related challenges in Cradock under Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality. The district municipality appointed a service provider which was handed over during the 2022/23 financial year to mainly deal with Cradock bulk sewer services. This project costing R23 million entails the refurbishment of Wastewater Treatment Works components; refurbishment of mechanical and electrical components on identified pumpstations; relocation of sewer pipeline which passes through Lingelihle township cemetery.

During the visit in Cradock to the water and sanitation projects in September 2023, the CHDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Lusanda Sizani made a commitment to the local municipality to uproot sewer spillages affecting the area. "We have taken a firm stance to deal with the sewer spillage challenges faced by the Cradock community and this will be addressed within the next three months . As the district municipality we will work tirelessly and we commit ourselves to clear this issue of sewer spillages to be a thing of the past. By December, Cradock community shall see a significant improvement in sanitation services".

The Cradock Wastewater Treatment Works refurbishment is currently 70% complete, functional, with a massive improvement on sewer spillages in different some areas which were previously most affected including Lingelihle cemetery and the Fish river. The redirection of sewer line that passes Lingelihle township is also progressing well.



**Cradock
community shall
see a significant
improvement in
sanitation
services**



CLLR LUSANDA SIZANI





CLLR LUSANDA SIZANI INTRODUCING SMART METERS DURING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WITH BUSINESS AND RATEPAYERS



SMARTWATER METER BEING INSTALLED AND CONNECTED TO WATER PIPELINE IN ONE OF THE BUSINESSES IN KOMANI

CHDM SMART WATER METER ROLLOUT UNDERWAY

Chris Hani District Municipality is currently installing digital smart water meters into premises within the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality. This follows the appointment of service providers most recently for installation of smart meters across the district. The installations which are currently underway were preceded by a stakeholder engagement with ratepayers; local municipalities, businesses and sector departments aimed to bring them on-board on the project roll out planned for the entire district as part of replacing the existing meters.

The project will assist mitigate challenges related to billing and accounts payment for improved water services provision. The technology makes it easy to notify customers of high or unusual water patterns, helping them identify leaks sooner, reducing the potential for high bills. and it will further bring about the much-needed intervention to the multimillion debt owed to the municipality on services rendered. There is no cost to customers for the installation of these new prepaid and conventional smart water meters as the district municipality will be incurring the installation costs, the costs of the devices as well as the monitoring management systems of the SMART meters.



NEW SMART METER DISPLAYED DURING THE ENGAGEMENT WITH BUSINESS AND RATEPAYERS

The technology, centred around state-of-the-art smart meters, promises to enhance the municipality's capability to manage water resources efficiently and collect revenue more effectively. The digital meters gauges water usage, set daily limits, detects water leaks, prevent tampering, and eliminate human errors.

Meters will be installed inside the house to lessen the risk of theft and vandalism. The programme will also afford qualifying consumers an opportunity to benefit from the free basic services social package that the district offers to households. Pre-paid meters will be installed for households as the primary option while in certain instances a conventional meter will be considered subject to the approval by the municipality. Bulk meters are being installed for high users such as large businesses. Pre-paid smart meters will enable consumers to manage their own consumption and further eliminate the risk of disputing the billing for accuracy and credibility.

Meter installations will be implemented in a phased approach with a particular focus on CBDs and affluent areas and will later include all other areas in different parts of the district. Residents are urged to assist towards the successful implementation of this program by granting access to their properties. The district municipality further urges customers to be more vigilant during this period.

Teams have been deployed around Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality for the installations and these will be carried out in other municipalities. During this period, consumers are urged to be in the lookout for these teams carrying identification tags, a letter on the district municipality's official letterhead with details of the official and branded vehicles with CHDM logo. To verify the credentials of those on the ground, consumers can call CHDM offices on 045 808 4676 or 071 622 7859 alternatively call 0800 100 100.





NEWLY DRILLED BOREHOLE AT LESSEYTON METHODIST CHURCH BENEFITS VILLAGERS

Heritage Day celebrations brought about the much needed change for the Lesseyton community, after the a new borehole was drilled in the area as part of the legacy projects implemented by the district municipality in Komani. The Lesseyton Methodist church was identified as the focal point of this year's provincial Heritage Day celebrations, as it marked the 140 Anniversary.

The Lesseyton Methodist Theological Training Centre, located on the church grounds, is a significant landmark with a rich history and is one of the sites which forms part of the Eastern Cape's Resistance and Chris Hani District Municipality Liberation Heritage Route. CHDM committed on drilling a borehole at the heritage site to augment water supply in the area. The borehole will be further equipped to ensure that it yields enough supply.

The pumps for the borehole were also equipped with switch at the aquifer protection water level to ensure that the borehole is protected from over abstraction and permanent collapse as advised by Technical experts, The borehole was drilled and the yield was also tested and it will be able to provide over 2000 L/day.

CHDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Lusanda Sizani remarked that : "the district municipality is geared to address all the water services related challenges in the district including in Lesseyton.

To demonstrate our commitment in this cause, we are currently visiting all CHDM water schemes in all our local municipalities to ensure improved provision of water services. This borehole will provide much needed relief to this community and and we will continue with our visits to municipalities every Tuesdays addressing water and sanitation related challenges."

CHDM has a responsibility to provide support to its local municipalities and we are committed in making a visible mark in many areas and on the lives of the people of this district. We are keen to promoting collaborations and in working together with all local municipalities including sector departments to fast-track service delivery in line with the District Development Model objectives



CHDM MMC, Cllr Nosipho Papiyana and Inxuba Yethemba Executive Mayor, Cllr Noncedo Zonke



King Dalimvula Matanzima of Western Thembuland with MEC Nomakhosazana Meth



CHDM PREPARES FOR THE UPCOMING VOTER REGISTRATION AND 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS

Eastern Cape Municipalities, key government departments and state-owned entities who are role-players in the process of electioneering, benefitted immensely during a Provincial Elections Infrastructure Task Team information sharing session held at the CHDM's Council Chambers on September 28th. This session was mainly organised to create a platform for all relevant stakeholders to engage on the state of readiness of the provincial government to facilitate the upcoming National and Provincial Elections (NPE 2024). The session was led by the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), public participation division in partnership with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

Key role players such as Local, District and Metropolitan Municipalities, Telkom, South African Weather Services, Eskom, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), South African Youth Council (SAYC), SAPS, the Department of Public Works, Department of Home Affairs amongst others were represented and were urged to that the province delivers free and fair elections. These included ensuring access to and equipping voting stations with all the necessary infrastructure.

Mr Langa Madyibi, the Provincial Public Participation Director from COGTA said the department is tasked to coordinate all kinds of elections starting from the National to Local and by-elections by establishing structures to participate towards positive realisation of the government electioneering goals. "A provincial coordination structure has already been established, we now come closer to districts, forming the same coordinating structure that is made up of all key participants. Key to this is the creation of a conducive environment for people to go out to vote come next year. Issues at the lowest sphere involve accessibility of voting stations – road infrastructure by municipalities and the Department of Public Works – availability of electricity by Eskom – availability of the network by Telkom and other service providers. All these people shape the effectiveness and efficiency of the electioneering process". He advised.

EC has about 4868 voting stations that have been certified and approved for use during NPE 2024. Some of these facilities are not a property of IEC namely– Schools, Community halls, Churches, etc. All infrastructural needs of these establishments will be channelled through the Voting Station Infrastructure Task Teams also known as VSI's. Mr Siyabonga Maki, the Provincial Manager : Electoral Operations, said during a survey conducted by IEC on NPE2021 it was established that there were failed attempts to establish VSI Task Teams and this meeting therefore seeks to ensure that the task teams are formulated to start working immediately. "The key thing is to lobby support from local municipalities to equip voting stations with water, sanitation facilities, electricity, roads etc. That support will be properly measured through the sitting of the VSI's. Chris Hani alone has about 110 voting stations and much support is required from both the district and the local municipalities".

The National and Provincial Elections 2024 will be preceded by the mass registration weekend drive that is set to take place on the 18-19 November 2023. A second round of the registration weekend will be conducted in February 2024. This augments on the online and physical/ office registration that is currently underway in the IEC website and IEC office across the province.





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Local Municipalities within Chris Hani District Municipality



ENOCH MGIJIMA
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