

UPHULISO

CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY NEWSLATTER

VOLUME 32



CHRIS HANI
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
SUSTAINING GROWTH
THROUGH OUR PEOPLE



2021 marks the 150th
anniversary of struggle
icon and human
rights campaigner
Charlotte Mazoke.



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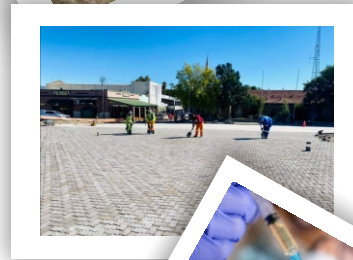
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Nine disaster affected families receive newly build houses

The lives of nine families who were affected by disaster incidents that struck different parts of Cofimvaba have now been changed following a handover of newly built houses. The five (5) affected villages, namely; Qhumamco, Sigangeni, Nomadambe, Choto and Ndenxe experienced disaster incidents that struck the Intsika Yethu Local Municipality area at different intervals, leaving some families destitute.

The houses are constructed through the Emergency Housing Programme which will see the district municipality build 427 housing structures for qualifying households. An overall amount of R6m has been allocated for this programme and the initiative is focused on those affected by the disasters. It is also aimed at bringing relief to families in compliance with the set Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) standards.

In total, 67 housing structures will be contracted in Intsika Yethu LM. Whilst, in all local municipalities, beneficiaries have been identified and construction processes are underway:

- Engcobo LM-73
- Enoch Mgijima LM - 143,
- Emalahleni LM - 49;
- Sakhisizwe LM - 65, and
- Inxuba Yethemaba LM - 30

In 2011, the Department of Human Settlements granted Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) a developer status, a responsibility to coordinate emergency housing construction in line with its Disaster Management coordination function. This programme is undertaken according to available funding from the responsible department. Through this initiative, job opportunities are created and these benefit emerging contractors from all local municipalities with the labour force drawn from the same community where construction is taking place.

The Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Thembisile Bobo, indicated, that “through this handover the district is demonstrating its commitment to improve our people's lives, their well-being and overall safety while also restoring dignity. No one can precisely determine what destruction a disaster will do, what is critical is how intervention and how we are to mitigate these. This is an exciting period for us as more people are expected to benefit,” he added.

“ it is heartening to see efforts by the district municipality offering us a helping hand and delivering on their promise ”



(2nd from Left) CHDM Cllr Thembisile Bobo and Intsika Yethu Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Bongani Mpengesi (right) and Mr Elvis Feleni, the beneficiary

The beneficiaries were thrilled to be officially handed over their newly built houses. This was evident from expressions of gratitude by both beneficiaries, a 56-year-old, Mr Elvis Feleni, who is also living with disabilities, and Ms Nozalapha Nomboza.

Feleni remarked that “ I am truly grateful for this gesture of goodwill from our government (CHDM) who came through for me as a person living with disabilities. It is heartening to see efforts by our district municipality offering us a helping hand and delivering on their promise”.



(Left) CHDM, Cllr Lizeka Tyali, with the beneficiary Ms Nozalapha Nomboza

For Ms Nomboza, who has been staying in a one roomed temporary structure with her children, the newly built house is a life-changer. “We have been living under trying conditions with my large family. Staying in a one roomed temporary structure with more than 5 children has been very difficult. She expressed her gratitude to the government that has saved her family's life.

the district municipality appeals with communities to jealously guard the infrastructure where construction of the houses is taking place and refrain from vandalizing the very same structures meant to benefit them.

Newly built houses in Qhumanco, Intsika Yethu LM





EMERGING FARMERS RECEIVE 1154 COWS TO BOOST COMMERCIAL FARMING

1154 cows were officially handed over to an emerging farmer in Elliot - Gubenxa Valley within Sakhisizwe Local municipality as part of the RAFI beef programme, a move that could see the beneficiary making an estimated revenue of R1.375 million in three months.

The initiative, is spearheaded by Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM), in collaboration with the Chris Hani Co-operative Development Centre (CDC), Chris Hani Development Agency (CHDA), Agri-Economy Tertiary Co-operative, RAFI Beef and Rafi Grain. Having been launched in August 2020, the key objective of the RAFI beef programme is to partner with private farmers for a minimum of 10 years. Under the programme, the cattle are grazed on land owned by the farmer, who shares 10% of the calves' production and benefits from a skills transfer. It gives local farmers the opportunity to commercialise their production for better economic spin-offs.

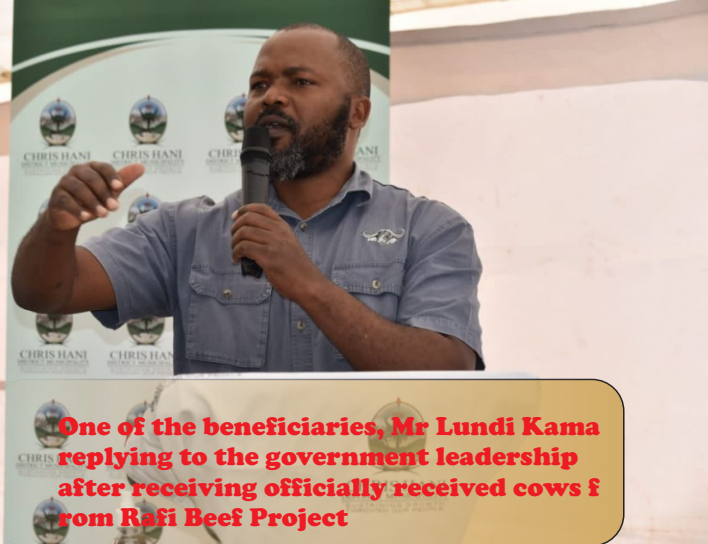
The Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela, reflected on the importance of providing support towards

maximizing growth of the farming and agricultural industry within the district and beyond its jurisdiction. "This contribution is intended to give a major boost to the local livestock

farming sector within the district. We do this in collaboration with all our partners and we have successfully done so in other parts of the district", he remarked.

Mr Chris Leibenberg, the RAFI Beef General Manager, who will be hands on in the backgrounding process and in ensuring the health and upkeep of the livestock was part of the handover. "The purpose of backgrounding involves an intermediate stage in livestock production where after weaning, the cows are dispatched to a feedlot", Mr Liebenberg explained.

“We need a master plan for the development of livestock farming for Vision 2030”



Cllr Sibongile Mbotshane, Portfolio Head for Integrated Planning and Economic Development (IPED) commented on the handing over, saying “this is one of CHDMs efforts to provide much needed assistance towards the growth and development of small-scale farmers in the district. Backgrounding is an essential procedure in the commercialization of black farmers. and it plays a huge part in breeding and producing quality meat that will better the economic stature of local farmers”.

Dr Fundile Bese, DRDAR Portfolio Committee Chairperson, emphasized the dire need to invest in livestock and the development of a master plan that will create job opportunities and food security in the agricultural sector. “Food security is a national crisis, especially in the Eastern Cape. Our province has so much potential and is faced with a myriad challenges namely drought, disasters, diseases and service delivery related issues. The master plan is

critical for the development of livestock farming and collaborations with key role players, namely; the private sector, local farmers and academics for improved status quo”.

The beneficiary of the cows, and Gubenxa farm owner, Mr Lundi Kama, expressed his gratitude on the support directed to emerging farmers, adding that “if we did not have these organizations and such programmes for support, this farm would have been long gone. The Eastern Cape is widely regarded as a province that is rich and blessed in livestock, yet underdeveloped in terms of commercialisation and sustainability of this sector. CHDM, in partnership with CDC, CHDA and RAFI, are taking commendable strides bridging the gap between large and small-scale farmers within the black community in the province.



WODEHOUSE AND BELLS ROAD CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED



Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela with EMLM leadership during the official opening of Wodehouse and Bells Road



Cllr Wongama Gela and Cllr Zukiswa Ralane with the labour force behind construction of the road

The Wodehouse and Bells Road that was under construction has been completed in Komani. The labour-intensive project created job opportunities for locals that saw 27 young people getting employment under the EPWP programme. This project is one of several innovative projects implemented by the Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM), in collaboration with the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EMLM) focused on small towns revitalization.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela, highlighted the significance of investing in public property, urging members of the community to jealously guard the infrastructure. “Investing in public property also requires that there should be a commitment towards the upkeep of such infrastructure. As the community we equally have a responsibility to look after these, protect them from any form of destruction and report vandalism activities to relevant authorities. Destruction to public property and existing infrastructure is a setback that is anti-developmental”, he emphasized.

The R4 million spent on the project - which will be cheaper to maintain because of the brick paving - went towards the required material and machinery and stipends, in addition to benefitting several businesses establishment in and around the area. Adre Bartis, administrator at Border-Kei Chamber of Business, welcomed the initiative, saying “we are pleased that these projects continue to benefit the people and will also create jobs under the tough economic climate”. Sicelo Solomoni, one of the workers involved in the project, beamed about the plans to provide training and

certification to Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers and how that will enable them better livelihoods. “We are beyond pleased because these days work opportunities are not guaranteed without the necessary qualifications, trade and skills”, he explained. To this effect, a total of 65 EPWP paving project workers in both Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality and EMLM will be trained and awarded certificates on completion of such a training.

Cllr Ralane thanked the workers behind the project for ensuring its completion. “We recognize and acknowledge the commitment CHDM has demonstrated in assisting EMLM and we truly are grateful”, she remarked.

The opening of the project flows from the refurbishment of the N6 that passes through Komani, which saw the replacement of damaged traffic lights, the installation of solar streetlights, fencing and cleaning of public gardens and the resuscitation and beautifying of the Hexagon Square.

CHDM has also begun its work across other local municipalities within its jurisdiction. Enoch Mgijima has various projects that are being currently implemented to revamp the economic hub of the district.

“Destruction of public property and existing infrastructure is a setback that is anti-developmental”

CHDM CUSTOMERS COMMENDED FOR PAYING OF WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES



Cllr Wongama Gela
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

We will tirelessly encourage consumers both externally and internally to pay their services accounts because we have a responsibility to provide services to the people

Over R14 million has been collected by CHDM after vigorously embarking on water disconnection programme with a particular focus on business and sector departments. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela, commended the commitment shown by defaulters who managed to pay their accounts, while the amount collected from April 2021 has risen up to R14m. However, a total amount, of more than R100m is owed by various entities.

CHDM has been confronted with a steep decline in revenue collection, a situation that has a direct impact on the ability of the district municipality in delivering services to the people as constitutionally compelled to do so, due to the culture of non-payment. “We will tirelessly encourage consumers both externally and internally to pay their water and sanitation services accounts because we have a responsibility to provide services to the people”.

“Whilst we have taken note of the response by the entities who have come forth either to make payment arrangements or fully pay their debt, we still urge all defaulters to play their part in ensuring that we deliver to their expectations”, said the Executive Mayor. He further reiterated that, as the district municipality, we

fully recognize the significance of water for our overall health. However, if consumers neglect their responsibility to pay and even continue to ignore demands for payment of a service they have received, this leaves the district with no other option but to enforce our revenue

As a management strategy, CHDM has now developed two registers for water and sanitation services bills, categorizing customers into defaulters - with the first category being those who failed to respond to the call to pay their bills even after they were written final pre-termination notices until they were disconnected.

The second category of defaulters being customers who are responding immediately to the reminder of debt. The municipality gave defaulters an opportunity to all affected businesses and government departments to negotiate or make payments through notification letters and engagements prior issuing final pre-termination notices. This process was later followed by disconnections targeting those who made no effort towards paying their debt. Defaulters are encouraged to contact the revenue management offices across the district to pay their debt. A culture of non-payment of services retards operations of the municipality as the district is now faced with limited resources to maintain the very same infrastructure that must function optimally to ensure people receive this precious service.

The CHDM announced early in March its intention to commence, in earnest, with the implementation of its Revenue Management Strategy. This is necessitated water disconnections to non-paying businesses and government departments which the district embarked on. Phase 1 of water disconnections targeting businesses and government departments will continue until all non-responsive customers are reached. Due interactions will be undertaken with the next category of consumers, which are the households, prior to the implementation of the 2nd Phase.



R5 MILLION POULTRY PROJECT TO BOOST BEYELE SMMEs IN ENGCOCO



The leadership of CHDM, alongside DRDAR MEC Pieters, on a tour of the poultry project after the proceedings. The project aims to bolster the farming industry of the Engcobo Local Municipality and create a sustainable future for its farmers.

The community of Beyele in Engcobo Local Municipality were the beneficiaries of a R5 million poultry project consisting of 4000 egg layers as part of Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) SMME development programme. The occasion was graced by the MEC for the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR), Ms Nonkqubela Pieters and political leadership from both Municipalities as represented by the Integrated Planning Economic Development (IPED) Portfolio Head Cllr Sibongile Mbotshane, Mayor of Engcobo Local Municipality, Cllr Siyabulela Zangqa.

The site and newly built infrastructure were handed over to Bumbano Siyaqhuba Farming and Multi-purpose Secondary Co-operative. This initiative is part of continued efforts to promote and support local SMMEs for the development of commercial farmers in the Chris Hani District.

CHDM acquired services of Dicla Training and Projects, a Komani based commercial farm, for the implementation of a project that would bolster job creation, food stability and the ownership of farming businesses in Engcobo. The infrastructure which costs R5 million includes 4 chicken structures, a cold room that stores thousands of eggs produced on site and two office headquarters.

The MEC for DRDAR, Ms Pieters, expressed her great pleasure on the commendable job by all involved. “This developmental programme is expected to change the livelihoods of Engcobo communities”. “Through these initiatives, our intention is to ensure sustainable development that will assist in creating a better life for our people. As government, this is the kind of work that we are mandated to perform in creating opportunities for our communities”, she continued. Our province is the largest producer of both wool and Mo Hair, and the home to the largest population of Merino sheep and Angora goats.

Based on annual sales of producer lots, the Eastern Cape was the biggest producer of wool during the 2019/20 financial year.

Cllr Mbotshane encouraged participants to push boundaries for the success of the project. “This project is a monumental one in improving the status of small-scale farmers in the Eastern Cape. What is more exciting is that more people will realize the importance of farming and how extensive knowledge of the skills required can change one's life”.

Cllr Zangqa made emphasis on the need for Engcobo community to have farmers that are well-equipped with the necessary expertise in this field. “Our goal as the municipality is for farmers in this area to be recognised as one of the best in the country. Although this may sound a bit ambitious, we know it is possible because we have the potential to be among the best”, he said.

The poultry project is aimed at bolstering the socio-economic status of farmers in the Engcobo region and is an effective tool at curbing the effects of poverty. Luthando Brukhwe, the Manager of Bumbano Siyaqhuba Farming, spoke on behalf of the SMMEs and thanked CHDM and Engcobo LM for creating legacy projects and opportunities for local farmers. “This kind of support from government is all that we ever wanted for the betterment of the farming industry in our area and to finally see it happening is a dream come true for us as farmers”, he stated.

The farming industry in Engcobo will also be receiving additional support from the district municipality in the form of a shearing shed aimed at assisting the community to become established farmers.



“Farming is not as simple as putting a seed into soil and watering it or giving sheep just food.”

New Shearing Shed for Beyele Community in Engcobo

The Beyele community are now beneficiaries of a new shearing shed that was constructed by the Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) as part of its livestock improvement programme. The shearing shed was handed over in Engcobo most recently by Cllr Sibongile Mbotshane, the Portfolio Head for Integrated Planning and Economic Development (IPED) and Engcobo Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Siyabulela Zangqa.

Various farming institutions in attendance on the day made worth noting reflections on issues related to farming business. Emerging farmers from Engcobo area greatly benefitted on the session as they were empowered with vast skills and expertise to expand their knowledge base. Invited speakers reflected on various issues ranging from shearing of sheep, feed and medication amongst others.

Mr Zindlovu Ndlalo, a spokesperson from BKB (an agribusiness offering agricultural solutions) advised on related support for the development of sustainable farmers. He highlighted the value of wool and how BKB assists in the economisation of wool within the Engcobo farming community revealing that Engcobo farmers send BKB their wool which is sold on their behalf through an auction system. Mr Ndalo further

cited that farmers can make money off the wool they shear from their sheep. “With the Covid-19 that has engulfed the world, it is proper to emphasise how this has affected the industry, how we have planned to combat those discrepancies and that farmers are most welcomed to contact BKB for any inquiries related to this”, he continued.

Cllr Mbotshane shed more light on CHDM interventions to enrich local farmers and encouraged the support of SMMEs, private farms and all relevant parties to the shearing shed for positive spin-offs that will positively impact the CHDM farming space. Some of the challenges often faced by farmers were highlighted, these including access to financial support, stock theft and sheep production amongst others. “Sometimes the methods that are used are backwards and are not in tune with the intricate ways of farming today. Farming is not as simple as putting a seed into soil and watering it or giving sheep mere feed. Private partners in the Agribusiness must ensure that they impart skills to the locals as part of ploughing back and empowering the farming community”, he said.

Operations of the shearing shed were outlined by Mr Lizo Mandlenda, the owner of a local commercial farm that prepares prospective farmers with AgriSETA accredited agricultural short courses. Emphasis was also made regarding classification and proper packaging of the wool, its storage processes as well as transportation to the market. Wool producers were advised that of their responsibility in ensuring that the shearing shed is ready for use by testing the equipment, cleaning, disinfecting the shed and supplying wool

NEWLY PAVED ROADS AND COMMUNITY HALL FOR INXUBA YETHEMBA COMMUNITY



CHDM Executive Mayor Cllr Wongama Gela and IYM Executive Mayor Cllr Noncedo Zonke cutting the ribbon during the handover of Cradock and Middelburg paving



Labour Force that was drawn from the youth of Inxuba Yethemba

The implementation of innovative projects as prioritised by the Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) gained momentum with another launch and handover of newly-constructed and refurbished roads and community hall, in Cradock and Middelburg.

The Executive Mayors in both CDHM and Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality (IYLM), Cllr Wongama Gela, along and Cllr Noncedo Zonke, officially opened the Empolweni paved road situated at Lingelihle Township Ward 1.

The scope of work included changing the surface of the road to a brick laden path, stretching from Eluxolweni Street to the Empolweni area. The project will be completed in different phases within a period of 3 years. The number of streets due for rehabilitation in Cradock include Cawood Street, Sprigg and Adderly Street.

In Middelburg town, resealing of major roads was embarked on - with Cllr Zonke highlighting the importance of upgrading roads. “We are today handing over the 3 streets [Smid Street, Van der Walt Street and Van Reenen Streets] to the community and these are the mostly used roads in our town. We are pleased with the progress made in these projects and to be finally presenting them to the public”, she said.

“ We have handed over a number of projects which have greatly benefited the community ”

The upgrading of roads in the local municipality afforded

employment opportunities for local SMMEs as the project created job opportunities with the training and certification of 65 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers. “As these municipalities, we have handed over a number of projects which have greatly benefitted the community in terms of gaining skills and relevant certification. The skills acquired will enable the beneficiaries to earn a living towards sustainable livelihoods”, remarked Cllr Gela.

Another significant activity was the official opening of Lusaka Community Hall situated at the heart of Middelburg town. Construction of the massive infrastructure, with a capacity of over 1000 people, commenced in 2018 and it will be utilised for events and other key specific activities.





DESTITUTE FAMILY RECEIVES NEW FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

A beneficiary of a newly built house in Thornhill, Ms Nozipho Mdingi, was brought to tears after accepting keys for from the MEC for Human Settlements, Ms Nonceba Kontsiwe recently. This was part of the Thornhill 1500 Housing project under construction in the district.

The 39 year old Mdingi, who was living in a one roomed mud house with her 9 year old child revealed how the condition of the mud house used to worry her particularly during strong winds as her roof was not so stable and was supported by stones. “I sometimes had to move my son when it rains because the water would seep through the roof Getting a fully furnished house exceeded my expectation”. Ntsangalala Holdings, the main contractor for the project donated furniture to the family as a surprise.

MEC Kontsiwe urged other beneficiaries still waiting for their houses to be patient. “We are handing over houses to those living under dire conditions. Our main focus is on the elderly, child-headed homes and military veterans”, the MEC said. “Our resources as

government are limited, however we are committed to do our utmost best to address the backlog” she continued.

Cllr Mbotshane added that the housing project is aligned to CHDM's objectives for improved living conditions in all local municipalities in the district by 2030. “It has been our efforts as government to cater for the needs of the people. More houses will be built in the area as part of our commitment to provide permanent and safe houses to deserving beneficiaries”, he stated.

Gift of the Givers assisted in delivering 100 food packs while the Department of Health, Social Development and Home Affairs provided services on wheels and information under strict covid-19 protocols.



Human Settlements MEC, Ms Nonceba Kontsiwe and CHDM Cllr Sibongile Mbotshane with Ms Mdingi and family



The newly-built bungalow that has a capacity of up to 30 learners.



A look inside the bungalow.

NEWLY BUILT BUNGALOW DONATED TO MACEMBE JUNIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Macembe Junior Primary school in Lingelihle Township – Cradock, is now beneficiaries of a newly built bungalow donated to the school most recently. The donation was made possible by the Chris Hani District Municipality following a request for additional infrastructure due challenges faced by the school.

CHDM Executive Mayor, commended the school for their efforts to solicit required support where necessary, the commitment and hard work by all involved in securing the future of tomorrow leaders. “As the school management team, you did not only approach CHDM with your request but you also made it possible to obtain an additional bungalow from your own coffers. You have done your utmost best to secure more space for the school and to us, this demonstrates true leadership traits. Education is a societal matter, and we will continue providing support in this regard in securing and investing on the future of our children, to give them a lasting legacy”, he stated.

The Executive Mayor, further stressed on the importance of adhering to the Lockdown regulations as set by government urging the school to play its part in combating the virus. “While government is hard at work with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine across the country, we are hoping against all hope that as citizens we will not do anything that will compromise our wellbeing and we will not the health of those in our society. Let us therefore be vigilant and not relax, let us not be caught off guard, we can collectively contain the spread of the virus and save more lives”, he added.

The School Headmaster, Mr F Dondashe, welcomed the intervention as the long-awaited official handover had

to be delayed due to the National Lockdown brought about by the Covid -19 pandemic that has engulfed the country. “We warmly receive this good gesture and truly appreciate CHDMs continued efforts for the betterment of our schools and improved performance in the line of work we do as this directly responds to the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 of a better South Africa for all”.

During the 2014 academic year, the school enrolment was sitting at approximately 350 learners with the current intake sitting at 974. Established in 1966, Macembe Junior Primary School started off from grade R to Grade 4 and has extended its intake up to Grade 7. The school currently has 12 classrooms and the bungalow will serve as an addition in this regard.

Alupheli Mathiso, one of the Grade 7 learners expressed her appreciation on the latest developments saying, “I am truly pleased with the new addition to the school as this means more rooms to learn and better chances of creating social distance in class”, she remarked with a smile.

The handover was also attended by the Portfolio Head for Health and Community Services, Cllr Thembisile Bobo and the Department of Education.

“ We want our children not to start on the back foot like our history before us ”

Some Embhekweni High School learners experiencing the school's brand new, fully-equipped computer laboratory.



WORLD CLASS R87 MILLION SCHOOL CONSTRUCTED IN TENTERGATE

Four villages around Tentergate, under Ward 32 of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EMLM), officially received their newly built high school. The R87 million massive infrastructure was handed-over by the Eastern Cape MEC of Education Fundile Gade and CHDM Portfolio Head for Special Programmes Unit, Cllr Lizeka Tyali. Mbekweni High School was constructed and completed under quintile one as part of government's Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) and is amongst 33 schools that have been completed by the EC department of education this period.

The school boasts of 13 classrooms, a laboratory, a library complete with books, multipurpose centre, 9 administrative offices, 2 printing rooms, a staff room, nutrition centre, sports facility, 30 water tanks, a sanitation infrastructure and 2 storage rooms amongst others. Vodacom installed internet connection with an offer to supply free access to internet for a for a period of three months. Vodacom's Marketing Specialist, Vuyo Ndzimase, confirmed to have loaded 20 gigabytes of data prior the handover - which they plan to load continuously for the agreed period as an interim measure while the school awaits WiFi connection. "We have in addition donated 20 pairs of shoes to disadvantaged children as part of our "Walk a Child to School" campaign in partnership with an NPO called Exhibition for a Child.

MEC Gade highlighted the importance of children having access to proper and enriching education and further indicated that as government our collective agenda in this space is ensuring provision of proper education to the children of this country. He also urged learners to fully apply their minds when selecting subjects and deciding on career paths after Matriculating.

The acting School Principal, Mr Madoda Mopi, commended the initiative and massive infrastructure which brings about a sense of confidence to the education system and validates the value of education as a right provided in Chapter 2 of the Constitution. "Tentergate community applauds government for rebuilding their school, they have been part of the construction since day one – they have benefitted from job opportunities created as a result".

The school accommodates learners from Bettlesfarm, Springroove, Khayaletu, Thembaletu.





Laying of the wreath on mass grave led DSRAC Minister, MECs, Mayors, Traditional and Church Leaders



FALLEN PATRIOTS OF BULHOEK MASSACRE STILL REMEMBERED AFTER 100 YEARS

24 May 2021 marked the historic centenary of the Bulhoek Massacre since the senseless and brutal murder of Israelites who were forcedly removed and gunned down in Bulhoek by the South African Police of the oppressive regime.

The massacre claimed the lives of many people after they refused to disperse from Ntabelanga, Bulhoek where they had squatted for some time fighting for land dispossession. Live ammunition was used to kill over 200 people. 100 were left wounded while 141 were arrested, including Enoch Mgijima and his sons.

In commemorating the Bulhoek Centenary, CHDM, in partnership with the Church of God and Saints of Christ, Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EMLM) and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) saw it befitting to launch legacy projects to honour these forebearers for their immense role in the struggle for liberation. These included commitments made for the Ntabelanga and Komani communities at large with refurbishment of N6 (Cathcart road) by EMLM and revitalization of Hexagon Square as CHDM's contribution. While EMLM further erected a monument engraved with the names of all those who lost their lives during the massacre. DSRAC committed to finalize the process of grading Bulhoek site as a

National Heritage Site of South Africa and processes were underway.

Dignitaries who graced the occasion included the Minister for DSRAC Mr Nathi Mthethwa, MEC Fezeka Nkomonye and other MECs in the province, Cllr Wongama Gela CHDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Luleka Gubula Enoch Mgijima EMLM Executive Mayor, 8 Bishops from the Church of God and Saints of Christ as well as Traditional Leaders.

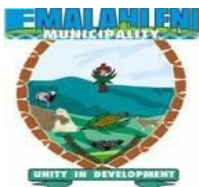
Minister Mthethwa applauded the resilience demonstrated by the Israelites under the leadership of Prophet Enoch Mgijima during those trying times.

“Racism and Colonialism within the Church was obvious. All those Christian converts were treated as children by their white missionaries. They refused to ordain blacks' priest, if they finally ordained them, they must always be supervised by a white priest,” he said. The Minister added that “Enoch Mgijima and the Israelites were walking in the footsteps of their predecessors. When the Israelites occupied this piece of land of Ntabelanga, they contributed in the struggle to reclaim their land.”



 **0800 100 100** CHDM Customer Care Line
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 www.chrishanidm.gov.za
 ChrisHaniDistrictMunicipality
 Chris Hani District Municipality
 @ChrisHaniDM

Local Municipalities within Chris Hani District Municipality



ENOCH MGIJIMA
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY