



**CHRIS HANI**  
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY  
SUSTAINING GROWTH  
THROUGH OUR PEOPLE

**VOLUME 31**

# UPHUHLISO

**CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY NEWSLETTER**

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2021 marks the 150th  
anniversary of struggle  
icon and human  
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# IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE PROJECTS COMMENCES



***CHDM Executive Mayor Cllr Wongama Gela receiving the first batch of tractor loader backhoe (TLBs) at Fleet Management Offices - Komani***

Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) has recently approved innovative projects that are currently implemented in various municipalities within its area of jurisdiction.

The district municipality is implementing the projects through its Municipal Support programme and these include purchasing of TLBs, jetting machines, paving and upgrading of Bells Road, ICT infrastructure, repairs and maintenance of water schemes, establishment of motor mechanics and mechanical workshops, SMME support programmes and youth development programmes amongst others.

The projects aimed at enhancing economic development and improve delivery of services to the people will be rolled out at different intervals and will create employment opportunities for communities across the district. To kickstart the implementation, CHDM in partnership with Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality have thus embarked on upgrading parts of Woodhouse and Bells streets in Komani. The upgrades, which have already commenced and near completion entail revamping the roads from an asphalt surface to a brick paved road. The upgrade will benefit all business establishments located in the identified stretch of road including municipal offices situated within the area.

District and local municipalities are independent and autonomous categories of local government each assigned distinctive powers and functions. Central to the functions of a district municipality, is the legislated duty to build capacity and support the local municipalities that fall within its area. Our model of support as the district is informed by four key pillars and the support must be demand driven. Support needs are therefore identified by the LMs and the upgrading of Wodehouse and Bells streets in Komani is an intervention requested by Enoch Mgijima LM. To this effect, Council approved a budget of R4m towards its implementation which will be utilised for required material, machinery and stipends for EPWP Workers.

The project is expected to run for a duration of 3 months and this is a labour intensive exercise which has created job opportunities for 30 EPWP workers. The scope of work involves replacement of damaged kerbs and reopening and cleaning of storm water drainage which has been a major concern during heavy rains. The local municipality provides technical assistance and closely monitors construction works to ensure it is in line with the expected quality of work in accordance with the Standardised Quality Specifications, which covers all relevant SANS, Colto and other accepted codes of practice.





## **ANOTHER PHASE FOR R215m TSOMO RIVER WATER ABSTRACTION AND WATER TREATMENT WORKS IN THE PIPELINE**

Villagers of Intsika Yethu LM from wards 3, 6, 8 and parts of wards 1 and 13; Engcobo LM in wards 1 and 2 and eight wards under Mnquma LM, will now benefit from a multi-million-rand Tsomo river water Abstraction and Water Treatment Works. The project commenced in 2016 and will relieve the water supply crisis for over 40 thousand households in the identified areas.

CHDM resolved to implement this project in phases due to its magnitude and now only one phase left. A contractor is busy establishing on site preparing to commence with construction for Bulk Distribution and bulk connection to Southern Bulk, Xolobe and Banzi areas as well Tsomo Town South Mzomhle Bulk line & Reservoir.

The project created a significant number of job opportunities totaling 1692 since its implementation where locally based Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) were utilized for the construction of the buildings, roadworks, paving, gabions, and reinforcing steel fixing. Material for the project was also sourced from locally-based suppliers – residing within the Chris Hani District Municipality area of jurisdiction. Thus far the focus for recruitment was on local people, youth and woman.

This is a regional and cross border bulk water supply project sourcing water from an abstraction weir on the Tsomo River, in Tsomo town. The plan is to provide bulk water to areas in two local municipalities within the Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) and one Local Municipality falling under Amathole District Municipality (ADM).

The Water Treatment Works will supply bulk purified water to 47632 households from areas of Intsika Yethu such as Tsomo town, Ngcobo and Mnquma. The beneficiaries will be served through numerous different projects in various municipal areas. Some of these projects have already been constructed and are ready to be supplied purified water, whilst others are still under construction or in the planning stages.

The project is implemented by the Chris Hani District Municipality with funding from the Department of Water and Sanitation through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) as part of a cooperative initiative with ADM. The implementation and provision of water services is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between key role players: Chris Hani DM, Amathole DM and the Department of Water and Sanitation.



# DEBERHA & BHOLOTHWA VILLAGERS RECEIVE SOLAR-BOREHOLES



**Several villages in Bholothwa & Deberha were the recipient of solar-boreholes that will enable more than 4000 residents to have access to clean water.**

**B**holothwa (in Enoch Mgijima LM) and Ntlambo village (in Engcobo LM) communities are new beneficiaries of Solar-Borehole Systems that were recently constructed through a Public Private Partnership between Chris Hani DM, Coca Cola Beverages SA (CCBSA) and The Coca-Cola Company. The collaboration has brought about relief to 4000 households who have with access to clean water in all these villages.

The project was fully funded by CCBSA who commissioned a service provider as an implementing agency. CHDM in partnership with local municipalities identified beneficiaries and strategic areas to erect these. Bholothwa and Ntlambo villages were thus selected as one of the dry areas hardest hit by water shortages in the district, a situation that has been further exacerbated by the spell of drought that has been lingering on for a number of years now.

Both villages predominantly rely on underground water source as they do not have dams or streams. The much needed intervention will greatly assist towards improved access to water supply for communities residing in the affected areas.

EMLM Ward 1 Cllr Zoleka Tutu expressed that

“partnerships with the private sector aimed at uplifting the standard of living of communities are always welcomed to realise the true meaning of collaborations towards a better life for all. This initiative which showcases modern technologies brings a much needed relief to the water distressed villages”, she said.



The Solar-Borehole System consists of a water pump that pumps through a filtration system and up into a 5000L water storage tank situated on a 3M steel stand. The tank stand and storage facility are situated at close proximity to the borehole to allow for steam pumping. All stored water will be gravity fed to an outlet valve situated at the base of the tank stand.







## DATA CLEANSING PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN KOMANI

CHDM launched its data cleansing programme in Komani most recently to improve the municipal billing system and update its indigent register. The actual data cleansing programme was preceded by a data collection project where CHDM employed field workers across the district. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela, led a team of field workers on a door to door campaign to collect data from households in the area.

The process comprised of three stages namely, data collection, data capturing and data matching with an estimated 70 000 stands/properties located in the area as listed in the deed's registry. The Executive Mayor made emphasis on the significance of the project stating that "the data collected will simplify the process of distribution of municipality service account to water and sanitation service consumers. CHDM intends to introduce additional measures in distributing statements to customers and these include emails, WhatsApp and bulk messages".

The team is more focus in collecting the following information: personal details of the owner as well as income status, ERF No and physical address. This exercise will provide the District with uniform and integrated billing information, a move that will assist maximise revenue collection across the District," he added.

The data cleansing programme will assist CHDM enhance its generated revenue that will be utilised to provide adequate services to the community. One of the residents in Ward 9, Komani Park, said this will assist in ensuring accurate billing as she has been experiencing billing issues with her account.

The project first commenced November 2018 but it soon came to an abrupt end at the start of the national lockdown brought about by Covid-19 pandemic. CHDM resumed with the project in January 2021.





## WATER SUPPLY DISCONNECTION COMMENCES: FOCUS ON BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS



**Water supply disconnection left local businesses and departments dazed after having their water switched off and some meter boxes rooted out in a bid to receive overdue payments.**

Chris Hani District Municipality has finally resolved to disconnect water supply services for defaulting customers which includes government departments and businesses to recoup millions in outstanding debt. This is part of the districts' Revenue Enhancement Strategy to ensure that its ability to support, maintain and function to a degree that it meets service delivery and development obligations as a going concern.

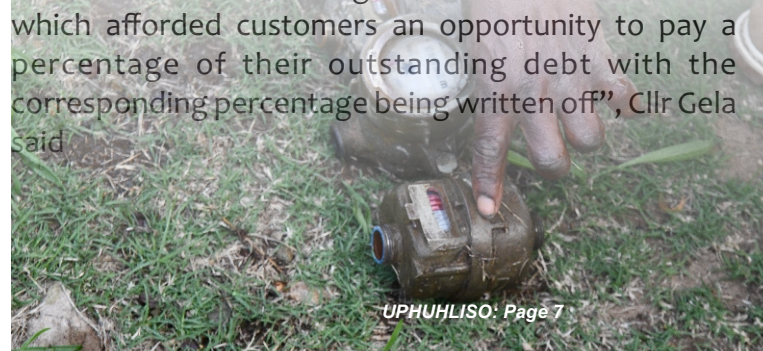
The business community was advised in a stakeholder engagement that defaulting customers who have outstanding debts are scheduled for cut off and the disconnections come as a last resort to collect revenue. Final pre termination were issued to some defaulters in February encouraging customers to pay off their debts with only a few who came forward to for arrangements of payments. Customers who have not received letters of pre-termination and are in arrears were requested to visit or contact revenue offices in all local municipalities across the district.

Cllr Wongama Gela, the Executive Mayor, stated that “while the district understands that many sectors of the economy have been severely hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, customers are encouraged to pay their municipal bill or they could face possible disconnection. As the district, we had to take this route as the municipality needs income to meet its

obligations, key to this is the delivery of services to the community. The culture of non-payment for municipal services cripples service delivery and we have a responsibility to ensure sound financial viability for the district which is a priority for continued provision of basic services”, he added.

The total debt for water & sanitation owed to the district by government departments businesses totalled 120 million combined while households owe staggering R1.9 Billion.

The disconnections commenced on the last week of March 2021 and as resolved affect business and government departments within CHDM area of jurisdiction. Similar steps will be taken against all defaulters and will include households; however, measures have been taken to assist vulnerable groups and the poorest of the poor as guided by our Indigent Policy. “Council has recently provided customers with some form of relief through its debt incentive scheme which afforded customers an opportunity to pay a percentage of their outstanding debt with the corresponding percentage being written off”, Cllr Gela said







**Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane**

**“When you obtain negative audit outcomes consistently, citizens lose confidence in the elected leadership, vote differently or completely stay away from voting.”**

**C**HDM performance, milestones and challenges that confronted the district in the previous financial year were laid to bare during a virtual Institutional Strategic Planning session that was held recently. The session held on 25 February 2021 gave a particular focus on each Key Performance Area (KPA) and deliverables to review and advance a new path for the upcoming financial year. Reflections on the institution's strategic direction covered key aspects such as its mission, vision against short- and long-term objectives is contained in the Service Delivery Budget and Implementation Plan (SDBIP).

Key speakers for the session included the EC Premier, Mr Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane, Mr Andile Fani – Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The Premier delivered a thought-provoking keynote address challenging public representatives to take governance issues and service delivery priorities with high regard.

The Premier started off by commending the district for its admirable posture in the fight against corona virus urging for a similar work ethic on other developmental initiatives. He added that the provincial government is bringing several socio-

economic development projects in the district to create an enabling environment for economic reconstruction and recovery. “We are building roads in areas such as Whittlesea, Dordrecht, Komani, Indwe, Engcobo to connect the citizens of the district to services and economic centres”, he said.

Critical projects such as Ncora irrigation scheme that is up and running and has attracted more investment from Anglo-Gold Ashanti and EXXARO. All these combined will immensely give local economic development a boost and contribute towards the creation of 1277 permanent jobs in the area of Intsika Yethu.

The Premier further cautioned public representatives on negative audit outcomes and its implications on government thereof referring to the recent AG reports. “The report is very scathing on the state of financial management in the municipalities within the district. When you obtain negative audit outcomes consistently, citizens lose confidence in the elected leadership, vote differently or completely stay away from voting. You must draw lessons from what happened in places like Nelson Mandela Metro and others”, he added.

Cllr Wongama Gela, the Executive Mayor made an emphasis on key recommendations of the session which included the accelerated implementation of catalysts projects through the Chris Hani Development Agency (CHDA), strengthening and prioritisation of customer complaints, fast tracking of Project Management Unit (PMU) projects to avoid rescinding of funds by the National Treasury, maximized revenue enhancement/financial viability through urgent implementation of revenue collection strategy, automation of document systems and improved ICT infrastructure, establishment of a research unit, implementation of monitoring and evaluation programmes for sound administration and governance, improved infrastructure and service for water provision and sanitation, Implementation of a turn-around strategy for improved audit results, accelerated conditional grant spending, implementation of CHDM vision 2030 - to mention just a few.

The strategic planning session was aimed to provide a platform for engagement with all relevant stakeholders to brainstorm, reflect, unclog service delivery related bottlenecks and mitigate challenges that the district is facing for improved performance. A report with clear recommendations for the session will be prepared for adoption by Council.



# 600 TONS OF GRAPES

## PRODUCED IN SHILOH VINEYARD



*Portfolio Head for Integrated Planning and Local Economic Development (IPED) Cllr Sibongile Mbotshane (right) & CHDA CEO Mr Zolile Duze showing off the Pinotage and Chardonnay for the brand flavourful Inkosi Wine*

Another harvest day and another large produce from Shiloh Vineyard is a demonstration of district hard at work. CHDM through Chris Hani Development Agency (CHDA), is determined to ensure that its investment on Shiloh irrigation scheme situated in Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality does not go to waste.

Shiloh irrigation scheme is run by the cooperatives themselves and the project is growing from strength to strength. CHDM has committed itself in resuscitating rural schemes across the district to ensure that they are fully functional and do so working in collaboration with community members.

The harvest day saw Shiloh community and Fam vision harvest about 12 hectares of grapes under the difficult drought circumstances. The Executive Mayor Cllr Wongama Gela arrived before dawn ready for harvesting as it is tradition in the area this time around and was anticipating higher production.

Members of the cooperative - Mayime Winery were commended by the Executive Mayor for the sterling work during the harvest. "Our aim is to expand and

produce up to 40 hectares of grapes per harvest, this can have positive economic spin offs and investment in the realm of tourism and agriculture. This project has an employment opportunity arising from each harvesting season", he stated. This year alone 150 people were employed and the beneficiaries were from around EMLM areas.

Mr Selborne Cecane, the Cooperative Chairperson indicated that "the current reap gave a yield of 600 tons and had to be shipped to Cape Town for wine processing. Despite the costs, through the support of CHDA, the cooperative is looking forward to having its own plant for cellar in order to grow and produce wider products with grapes from wine to raisins. For this year's harvesting, CHDA supported with R350 000 which was utilised to provide equipment and machinery", he added.

Mayime Winery produces Pinotage and Chardonnay for the brand flavourful Inkosi Wine. For purchase or shopping, these wines are available locally in Komani Pick n Pay Civic Center and at Spar in Cradock town.





**Left: CHDM Executive Mayor Cllr Wongama Gela with EMLM leadership**

**Right: Street bins dropped off at strategic points**

# 80 STREET BINS INSTALLED IN KOMANI CBD

**M**lungisi residents in Komani rolled up their sleeves as part of a collaborated clean-up drive undertaken by Chris Hani District Municipality and Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality. Four cleaning teams were formulated to tackle Mlungisi township as part of the focus area. The programme will continue until the cleanliness of Komani improves. In the build ups towards the launch, CHDM directly contributed by installing street bins in the CBD.

However, the Executive Mayor Cllr Wongama Gela made it categorically clear that waste management is not CHDM competence.

Speaking during the launch of this clean-up drive at Thobi Kula Indoor Sports Centre, Cllr Gela stressed that “according to NEMA: Waste act 59 of 2008, waste management practices in many areas in SA are not conducive to a healthy environment and the impact of improper waste management are often born disproportionately by the poor.”

“Poor waste management practices can therefore have and adverse impact both locally and globally.

“The drive was aimed at improving waste management infrastructure and is far more important than it looks as it promotes waste reduction, recycling and reuse. It further helps reduce the greenhouse gases, fight climate change and improving quality of the natural environment. Added to this, it also helps to address outbreak diseases in a world faced by Covid-19 pandemic”, he said.

The Executive Mayor commended the community leaders of Mlungisi for taking a stand and sharply raising issues affecting them and cleanliness of their area. One of the community members Mr Mzukisi Hlelani who participated in the drive expressed his appreciation on the programme, saying “this activity has given us an opportunity to become well versed on matters related to being responsible of our environment”.







**“I urge everyone to be vigilant to prevent the 3rd wave” Cllr Wongama Gela, Executive Mayor**”

## 3RD WAVE OF COVID -19 INFECTIONS CAN BE PREVENTED

In the wake of President Cyril Ramaphosa's pronouncement on 28 February, that the country was now ready to move to Alert Level 1 as from, 1 March 2021; CHDM Executive Mayor, Councillor Wongama Gela appealed to the community for vigilance and adherence to lockdown regulations which are set to prevent more COVID 19 transmissions.

“It is obligatory that we exercise utmost care to prevent escalation of infections as we enter the newly pronounced Alert Level 1. Most restrictions are uplifted, however, the responsibility is upon each and everyone of us to ensure that we play our part to protect ourselves and others and save lives”, he said. The new alert level 1 regulations still require us to exercise vigilance in these stressful times and continue to wear our face masks at all times”, the President stated.

Alert Level 1 regulations further emphasize that:

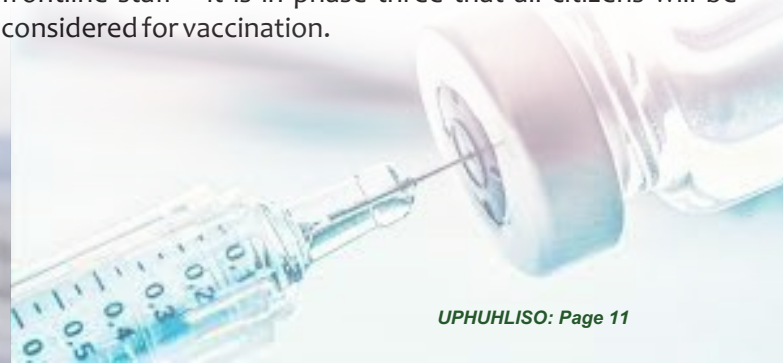
- ***Attendance of a funeral is limited to 100 persons or less and if the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and half meters from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used.***
- ***Night vigils or after-funeral gatherings including 'after tears' gatherings are still not allowed.***
- ***Every person is confined to observe curfew time from 00h00 until 04h00 daily, unless a person has a permit to move around during the specified times.***



The district Joint Operations Committee (JOC) which constitutes all critical role players such as local municipalities, government departments, business fraternity will continue with its responsibility to conduct education and awareness campaigns; monitor and observe trends of COVID -19 infections across the district. This vigilance will assist the district to swiftly implement contingency measures should a rise in numbers be detected.

The vaccination rollout plan has already commenced in different parts of the country with the vaccination of health workers as part of phase 1 of the National vaccination launched.

Under phase 1, there are 18 vaccination sites across the district - all district hospitals have been identified. This is an indication that the country is still battling with this scourge hence the news of anticipated third wave. To this effect we continue to encourage all citizens to take caution and work with government towards containing infections while readying ourselves for the vaccination process to our district. Let us all remember that phase one and two targets frontline staff – it is in phase three that all citizens will be considered for vaccination.





## MORE INTERNS JOIN CHDM



**Executive Mayor Cllr Wongama Gela, & Cllr Thembisile Bobo, welcoming new interns**

Chris Hani District Municipality brought in another group of 20 interns this year. This is the 4th cohort since the municipality adopted programme in 2011. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela, welcomed the second batch of interns on the 29th of March 2021 joining the first group that is navigating its way since early this year.

All the interns total are now exposed to the working environment and the two-year long programme aims to assist higher education graduates become more employable. With the internship programme having been adopted as far back as 2011 more learners continue to acquire the much needed skills to ready themselves

The Executive Mayor stated that “the internships are pivotal in bridging the gap between academic studying and competent performance in the workplace. This opportunity will offer a structured internship to students and unemployed youth to gain practical work experience”

“The district made a commitment to empower young people particularly those residing within its corridors and we urge all the incoming interns to seriously take this opportunity as a learning experience”, added the Executive Mayor.

One of the interns, Lilitha Bolani, expressed deep appreciation to the institution saying she felt privileged to be amongst the those selected. “This programme is an important step to propel us as young people to the next level. It is an opportunity of a lifetime and I'm proud to be part of the CHDM family”, she said.

Another young star, Lazola Godla, added that the municipality is indeed demonstrating its commitment in transferring skills and wealth of experience to new graduates. “This initiative will equip us to be better skilled and competent in our chosen fields. Being selected from thousands who applied means the world to me”, he added.



# RECENT RAINFALLS GAVE CHDM DAMS A MAJOR BOOST

## Bonkolo Dam

*Welcomed rainfall resulted in increased dam levels in the CHDM area.*

**D**am levels in the Chris Hani District Municipality have slightly improved following the recent heavy rainfall that poured in different parts of the district. The South African Weather Services forecasted the heavy rainfall and issued a weather alert for possible flooding due to significant amounts of rainfall that was expected across the country.

The heavy downpour has brought a sigh of relief for the drought-stricken district which has been continuously hit by a combination of both extreme heat and less than average precipitation. This resulted to water restrictions which the district introduced early in 2015 and these are scheduled between 20h00 and 05h00 to allow reservoir levels to increase.

The recent rainfall experienced in the district has helped alleviate a dire situation in two of our main sources in Komani - Waterdown and Bonkolo Dam - which were adversely affected. Several dams within the district are currently sitting above 70% to full capacity except for Bonkolo which is still at low levels, with a minimal yield.

During the 2019-2020 financial year, the district conducted a survey for Bonkolo and Barry Dam as part of dam management requirements to assist understand their capacity, structural stability as well as items that relates to operations and maintenance. As per the survey, some of the dam management requirements are not structurally compromising the

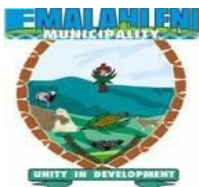
dam wall. The survey amongst others cites interference with the catchment and preliminary investigations conducted also confirmed the existence of several small dams in the catchment area. These dams hinder the inflow to Bonkolo as the expected water to recharge the dam hardly flows into the dam. The matter has since been escalated to the Department of Water of Sanitation as this affects sustainable water supply.





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## Local Municipalities within Chris Hani District Municipality



**ENOCH MGIJIMA**  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY