

UPHUHLISO

CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33



CHRIS HANI
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
SUSTAINING GROWTH
THROUGH OUR PEOPLE



Inside This Issue

**03 Ministerial Visit to Tsomo
River Abstraction and
Water Treatment Works**

**04 New Jetting Machines
for Improved water and
sanitation services**

**05 Nelson Mandela Day
Commemorated in two
Pre-Schools under strict
Covi-19 Regulation**



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

CONTENTS

- 03. Ministerial Visit to Tsomo River Abstraction and Water Treatment Works
- 04. New jetting machines for improved provision of water and sanitation
- 05. Nelson Mandela Day Commemorated in two Pre-Schools under strict Covid-19 Regulations
- 06 Small Scale Farmers Benefit from Poverty Alleviation Programme
- 07. CHDM Municipal Health Services Conduct Food Inspection
- 08. CHDM Embarks on Covid-19 Vaccination Activation in Thornhill
- 9. Local Designer Received Sewing Equipment and Material from CHDM
- 10 Newly Refurbished Ebdon and Queendastria Substations to serve Komani Residents and Business
- 11 . Destitute Families in Engcobo Local Municipality receive houses from the Department of Human Settlements
- 12. Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment Donate





From left: CHDM EM, Cllr Gela, along with Minister Mchunu, Deputy Minister, David Mahlobo, and Cllr Bongani Mpengesi, Intsika Yethu LM Mayor.

MINISTIRIAL VISIT TO TSOMO RIVER ABSTRACTION AND WATER TREATMENT WORKS

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Minister, Mr Senzo Mchunu accompanied by Deputy Ministers Dikeledi Magadzi and David Mahlobo visited Tsomo River abstraction and water treatment works few weeks ago. The multi-million infrastructure constructed with funding from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) as part of a cooperative initiative with Amathole District Municipality (ADM) is in the deep rural town of Tsomo in Intsika Yethu Local Municipality.

This project which will bring a long-lasting water solution to about 236 000 people in over 40 000 households will cater communities in both Chris Hani and Amathole District Municipalities. Residents in Mquma Local Municipality will benefit from this the treatment works and this will provide the much-needed relief to the area.

CHDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela, reflected on how dam levels have dwindled with low yields experienced in different parts of the district impacting negatively on water provision services. “A total of 20 villages in Engcobo and 10 from Intsika Yethu Municipality are facing water

scarcity challenges and are badly affected by the persisting drought.”

More work is yet to be done on site to benefit the Mquma Local Municipality community as well. This includes the construction of a 7.5 ML concrete reservoir and a 23m gravity bulk line with a diameter of 450mm, as well as electrical and mechanical pump installations. The construction of the river abstraction and water treatment works is almost complete and at 99.9% with only the construction of a reservoir and pipeline installation to Butterworth expected to commence.

The ministerial delegation took a walkabout at the construction site with the Minister acknowledging the scope of work done thus far cautioning against any delays on the project. “The construction of this treatment works commenced in 2016 and this was supposed to be completed by 2018, we must see to it that this work is finalised”.

He said “there is a long way to go and there are costs we are still to endure. I can confirm that the pipeline to Butterworth will cost R230-M and it is estimated to take another three years to complete”, he highlighted.

“It is unacceptable to have project delayed by 6 years. We are going to work together with local mayors to fast-track the project. However, we will need additional budget from the National Treasury, but we will need to submit a report detailing the phases and associated costs for each”, he said.

Minister Mchunu also expressed that water supply from the project would not be used for drinking purposes only, but for the agricultural sector too. “We want water for human consumption, wildlife, factories, businesses and sanitation”, he concluded..

NEW JETTING MACHINES FOR IMPROVED WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES



In the picture, Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela and operators receiving the two new jetting machines



900 liters built in truck

Two new high pressure and vacuum jetting machines were purchased and delivered to the district municipality offices in Komani to curb water and sewer blockage challenges, especially in the areas of Enoch Mgijima and Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipalities.

The machines are built in truck, each contains 9000 litre tanks: 5000 litres for water plus 4000 litres for sewer, with 180 bar jet pressure for the draining/cleaning of the sewer and water pipelines. This occurs at a speed of 260 litres per minute. The district municipality took the bold step to secure its own jetting machines designed pipeline system and major blockages. This move will serve as a breakthrough and another milestone that will provide a huge relief in our communities.

Training commenced soon after arrival of the trucks for 16 CHDM employees from both fleet management and water services who will be utilising the equipment. Receiving the trucks, the Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama

Gela stated that “these machines will be of use for all CHDM stakeholders and municipalities, as they will operate across the district. This is another milestone worth noting in improving the quality of services in our communities”.

“We initially performed this service utilising external service providers in attending to major sewer spillages and water pipeline associated blockages. The latest developments, regarding these new high quality jetting machines will improve turnaround times and our teams will respond swiftly and more quicker to blockage and spillage incidents”, he added.





NELSON MANDELA DAY COMMEMORATED IN TWO PRE-SCHOOLS UNDER STRICT COVID-19 LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS

Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) in partnership with Enoch Mgijima, Inxuba Yethemba and Sakhisizwe Local Municipalities rolled up their sleeves once again this year as part of their resolution to commemorate Nelson Mandela Day.

This year's initiative focused on the well-being of children in the form of beautification, tree planting and cleaning of two previously disadvantaged pre-schools, namely, Hebron and Darg Sorg at Ezibeleni and Michausdal in Cradock respectively. This gesture of goodwill was aimed towards creating a healthy environment for better growth and development of children under the theme *"One Hand Can Feed Another"*.

Over the years, the district in collaboration with its various stakeholders provided a helping hand to those in need across its area of jurisdiction responding to the call by the United Nations to make everyday a Mandela

Day. Specific activities undertaken during the day included the handover of wheelie bins, gardening tools, paints, 25 litres of sanitisers. Tree planting, painting of facilities and fixing of amenities were also embarked on. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Wongama Gela, remarked that "today we were remembering and celebrating the birth date of a stalwart, tata Nelson Mandela which we annually observe on the 18th of July- date which has been declared as the Nelson Mandela International Day. In our country, July has been declared as the Nelson Mandela Month. All of us are indeed called upon to dedicate 67 minutes of our time in doing good without expecting anything in return as a way of representing 67 years of which Nelson Mandela dedicated his life to the people's struggle".

One of the leaders of the two pre-schools, Mrs Notozana Tose expressed her gratitude to CHDM leadership. "God bless you for doing the good work for these souls, some people are busy out there with destruction and destroying our society, but you chose to be here with us to build not destroy", she said.

SMALL-SCALE FARMERS BENEFIT FROM POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME



Mr Fuzile Dayimane receiving his allocation from Cllr Sibongile Mbotshane

The Integrated Planning and Economic Development (IPED) Portfolio Head, Cllr Sibongile Mbotshane, handed over poultry and piggery production inputs to five small-scale farmers in the Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM). This was in line with the district's poverty alleviation project that sought to support small scale farmers through the necessary inputs and skills development in local municipalities.

“Poverty alleviations are non-income generating projects providing support to small-scale poultry and piggery projects”, Cllr Mbotshane explained. “A concept document was developed for the programme and is being monitored on a quarterly basis. A request for support is first received from the project beneficiaries and this is assessed by the district municipality.

The beneficiaries thus far include Mzondi Farming Trading and Projects, Arizona Agri Farming Primary Co-operative, both from Emalahleni Local Municipality,



NWZ Production and Zukhanye Multi Projects from Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality and Sinolwazi Primary Co-operative from Intsika Yethu Local Municipality. The SMMEs received a batch of 1500 day old chicks and more than 60 piglets. Water tanks, feed and other production necessities were also handed over to beneficiaries.

Mr Fuzile Matthews Dayimane of Zukhanye Multi Projects from Who-Can-Tell in Whittlesea started small in 2003, with the project evolving and branching out to growing vegetables and pursuing sewing. He owes this to a time where rife unemployment and poverty drove him to other options. “I am grateful to have received poultry production input and hope to expand to pig farming as well”, “This will allow us to employ people on a full-time basis”, he said.



CHDM MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES CONDUCT FOOD INSPECTION



CHDM MHS on site busy with food handling inspection

An education and awareness campaign were successfully conducted in Komani preceding the World Environmental Health Day, scheduled for the 26th of September 2021. The Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) Municipal Health Services (MHS) championed the campaign aimed at reminding food hawkers of the importance of keeping a hygienic and healthy working space. The undertaking was part of continued efforts by the district municipality to ensure the physical health of members of the community – with the next activation set to happen at the Correctional Service precinct in Whittlesea.

Mr Siyabulela Vellem, a Manager at the MHS, confirmed that the campaigns were a build up to the upcoming annual World Environmental Health Day. This year's celebrations were observed under the theme prioritising environmental health for healthier communities in global recovery. Mr Vellem emphasised the need for environmental practitioners to dedicate themselves in creating a safer working environment for food hawkers in the district. He said “we are doing an awareness that focuses on covid-19, health and hygiene and ensuring that the hawkers adhere to the

set criteria of handling food”. The hawkers were also encouraged to utilise hand-washing facilities such as buckets and soap, regularly clean their working stations and wear a hair-covering garment. The programme also assisted in reminding hawkers of the significance of adhering to Covid-19 protocols, they were urged to get vaccinated to protect themselves and save lives. “The hawkers should be wary of the current pandemic we are encountered with and consider these measures”, he remarked.

The activation began at Scanlan Street in Victoria Park and trickled down taxi ranks where food hawkers predominantly work. Ms Nobuntu Nzokweni, a 61-year-old from Mlungisi who a food hawker for over 10 years has been, was part of the group of hawkers that welcomed and appreciated the awareness, stating that “we are determined to operate in the manner in which we have been taught today”. “What is key is that these are our jobs, and we will do everything required to provide healthy and acceptable food to the community”, she added.

World Environmental Health Day plays a vital role in disaster preparedness and response, as well as disease and outbreak investigation and prevention.



CHDM EMBARKS ON COVID -19 VACCINATION ACTIVATION IN THORNHILL



CHDM Disaster Management and Fire Services team leading Covid-19 awareness campaign in Thornhill



SAPS Members joined forces for Covid-19 Awareness campaign

Chris Hani District Municipality' (CHDM), in partnership with Government Communications and Information System (GCIS), the Departments of Health, Education, Water and Sanitation, Public Works and the South African Police Services (SAPS), amongst others, embarked on a Covid-19 activation in Thornhill on the 25th of August 2021 aimed to raise awareness around the coronavirus and encourage those that have not vaccinated to also to the right thing and get their jabs.

The activation commenced with a motorcade reminding the community about the covid-19 regulations and the importance of adhering to these. This moved Hlalethebani Primary School, where respective stakeholders shared critical information on their services. The program included student participation with quiz and a fun-filled learning experience for all involved. Speakers reflected as follows:

- CHDM Health services officer, Mr Bongani Nyangaza, highlighted key issues from his department, which is responsible for inspecting food quality and handling amongst others.
- Mr. Salu Sikhwezi from CHDM Environmental Management, gave insight on climate change and the importance of planting trees and saving water.
- Mr. Mesule Sithole from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), added that everyone has the right to water and CHDM provides water services while the DWS helps with budget provision and

other resources.

- Mr. Simphiwe Mema, also from the DWS, urged participants to take care of toilets and avoid wasting water as each drop counts.
- A representative from SAPS imparted information regarding the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 and unruly behaviour caused by drugs and substance abuse. MS. Zoleka Mvange, a Manager from the Department of Health based in the Provincial Office, gave her input and re-iterated the Covid-19 protocols in place. She also reminded learners of the need to adhere to Covid-19 protocols to protect themselves and others from contracting virus.

The Principal of the School, Ms. Nombulelo Manundu, praised the district municipality for its continued efforts and programs that seek to curb the spread of the Covid-19 “We truly thank CHDM and all its partners for the much needed enriching session and fun way of teaching and learning about Covid-19

Mr Ayanda Tabata from McBright speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, said “we understand that we are sometimes not included in the budget, but as they say “blessed is the hand that gives”



Mr Maqunyana with sewing equipment received from CHDM



LOCAL DESIGNER RECEIVE SEWING EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL FROM CHDM

Mr Lumkile Manqunyana, a local fashion designer, is one step closer to expanding his business after the Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) assisted him with sewing equipment and material.

The 59-year-old beneficiary runs Leathercraft and Manufacturing, a clothing and textile business from his Khayelitsha home in Mlungisi and received a zigzag sewing machine, fabric dyes and leather material. The items were budgeted for in the 2019/20 financial year.

Mr Manqunyana, who has been in the sewing industry since 1992, said “I make leather belts, sandals, wallets and jackets and began this career in Cape Town, where I was trained by Wonder Business”. He shared how the district municipality supplied him with leather worth R8000 in 2018. The demand of his products has grown fast and steady due to the financial injection and, as such, plans to create job opportunities for the

youth through his business expansion. “I am working with my wife, but I am planning on employing a dressmaker, a designer and someone to make sandals and bags while I focus on the wallets”, he said, adding that his mission is to contribute to the local economy.

“The zigzag stitching machine will be of great help as I only have a straight stitching machine. I will use the fabric and machine to make school uniforms and a variety of clothing”, he added. The designer also makes dog buckles and is marketing himself in retail stores for shelf space.

One of his main goals is to make his business accessible and closer to the CBD. His bigger vision is to have his own factory – which he believes will greatly help curb the youth unemployment crisis.



The sewing machine and fabric handed over to fashion designer, Manqunyana.



NEWLY REFURBISHED EBDEN AND QUEENSDASTRIA SUB-STATION TO SERVE KOMANI RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Erratic power supply came to an end for businesses in Komani's industrial area and the Komani Psychiatric Hospital. This after the Queendustria sub-station was officially launched by provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) MEC Mlungisi Mvoko, along with Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) Deputy Executive Mayor, Cllr Nonceba September-Caba, with the Eastern Cape Development Centre (ECDC) CEO Ayanda Wakaba after undergoing a R24 million refurbishment.

The now strengthened and renewed electrical infrastructure boasts of a new electrical transformer, the installation and commissioning of new current and voltage transformers and

switchgear panels, along with a solid security fence. Speaking at the launch, MEC Mvoko said the corporation was working in terms of the provincial executive's economic stimulus programme, with a focus on creating economic activity in townships. "This investment is envisaged to trigger a chain of reaction of positive economic outcomes that will be far greater than the initial input", he said.

The substation will distribute electricity to various Komani end users, which include parts of the Ezibeleni residential area and the business community at Queendustria.



DEDEAT MEC Mvoko



DESTITUTE FAMILIES IN ENGCOBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY RECEIVE HOUSES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Ninety (90) destitute families from Deberha Village outside Ngcobo have received keys to their new homes. This move, handing over of a R12 million housing project intended in changing the lives of acute destitute families – mostly targeted the elderly.

The 90 houses form part of the first phase of the project which will see 706 houses built in nine villages of ward 6 under Ngcobo Local Municipality. Among the beneficiaries is a 66-year-old Mrs Nosayinethe Gxokonyela who was staying in a dilapidated mud structure. Mrs Gxokonyela who is a widow dependent on a social grant said her living conditions will change for the better.

“I’m glad that this day has finally come. I was living under difficult conditions in my dilapidated mud structure. Now, together with my son we will have a decent home. My heart is full of gratitude,” she said.

Another beneficiary from the same village, a 46 year old Ms Nozakekho, an unemployed mother of seven stayed in a collapsing mud structure with her children and a grandchild She said, receiving the house to her meant a new start for her family.

“We were congested in this mud structure which was a

concern for me during this pandemic. Severe weather conditions would affect the health of my children especially when it is cold. Now this is a new start and we will be safer in a proper house,” she stated.

The provincial housing department is inundated with housing applications. This financial year it has taken a position to prioritize the elderly, destitute, vulnerable, disabled, child headed homes and military veterans. The Provincial Human Settlements MEC, Ms Nonceba Kotsiwe said the programme is intended to change the lives of these designated groups

“The other focus of the department is building houses in rural villages. This is where there are high levels of poverty and unemployment. Special focus has been given to the elderly, the destitute, child headed households, disabled and military veterans,” said Kotsiwe.

This project alone will see over 200 elderly benefit from it. Meanwhile, the department has set aside R262 million rands for the Chris Hani District Municipality this financial year. 80 low cost housing projects will therefore be completed in various municipalities.



**Now, together with my son
we will have a decent
home. My heart is full
of gratitude**



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENT DONATES PPE TO CHDM WASTE PICKERS

The CHDM Deputy Executive Mayor, Cllr Noncedo September-Caba, was joined by the Health and Community Services Portfolio Head, Cllr Thembisile Bobo, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) where the department made a donation and handed over 167 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to the district municipality's waste pickers and reclaimers in a bid to minimise the rise in numbers of Covid-19 in the area.

The department reported that CHDM, OR Tambo, Alfred Nzo and Joe Gqabi District Municipalities, were the recipients of the protective clothing that is aimed to assist in tackling the daily challenges of Covid-19. Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality received 76 PPEs while Emalahleni Local Municipality received 20. Inxuba Yethemba and Intsika Yethu Local Municipalities received a total of 38 and 19 respectively, Sakhisizwe Local Municipality got 10, with 22 allocated to Engcobo Local Municipality. Mr Francois Nel, the Technical Director at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), said "the main reason that we are handing over PPEs to our waste pickers is because of the initiative relief programme". "There are two phases in this programme; the first being the payments of the waste pickers, now the PPEs", he explained. He went on to reiterate the importance of the project, where waste pickers were identified and registered within their municipal areas and

pledged to continue supporting them in the roles they play. The waste pickers also received an additional R1100 once off payment, with Nel saying "I think it is very crucial in this time of adjusted level 4 and the escalating infection numbers that our waste pickers are safe-guarded in their jobs and we want to thank the CHDM and all municipal officials working with our waste pickers".

Cllr September-Caba said "the main objective of doing this noble job is to make sure that the waste pickers, since they are exposed to compromising conditions, are protected from covid-19". "This waste management system is opening the doors for poverty alienation because the project offers benefits that go a long way in assisting the waste pickers", she said. Cllr Bobo, emphasised the significance of the day by appreciating the services rendered by waste pickers, said "our waste pickers are confronted with the issue of covid-19 on a daily basis and without the services they are providing, our communities would be in a bad state".

Ms Nontobeko Klaas of Keep It Clean Corporative, and one of the beneficiaries shared her sentiments about the initiative, remarking that the project has been a huge help in enforcing a safer work environment and protection against covid-19 infections. "We were picking up waste such as used masks so that would often pose threats of infections", recalled Klaas. She acknowledged its impact to the society as well saying the programme paved a way for people to realise the significance of waste management and the need to look after the environment.

DFFE is further planning to host a Waste Summit with CHDM in September to look at waste management within the district and to determine whether a bigger impact will not be made through job creations, the involvement of businesses and the maintenance of the environment.



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