



# MKHONDO NEWS

IZINDABA  
ZASEMKHONDO

Edition 18

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## GSDM WHIP OF COUNCIL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

*Let's Build a Brighter Future Through Education*



## OUR COMMITMENT

### Vision

A model municipality of excellence .

### Mission

Committed to deliver quality and sustainable service that will enhance economically viable and better life for our community.

### Municipal Core Values

- Honesty
- Openness
- Professionalism
- Excellence
- Responsiveness



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## FARE THEE WELL TO COUNCILLOR MTHOKOZISI AMADY SIMELANE

*May your spirit live on, inspiring and guiding those whose lives you touched.*



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## OVERSIGHT VISIT AT GABOSH DAM

*Improving water security in Mkhondo*

Mkhondo Local Municipality

Mkhondo\_Mun

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER



***Mthá Mkhonza , Municipal Manager***

Service delivery remains the cornerstone of local government and the foundation upon which we build thriving, resilient, and inclusive communities.

We are committed to delivering services that are efficient, transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of our communities. Through continuous investment in infrastructure, maintenance of essential public facilities, and the implementation of community development programmes, we strive to enhance the quality of life for all residents while promoting economic growth and social well-being.

We acknowledge that challenges do exist, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing them through sound governance, innovation, prudent financial management, and meaningful engagement with our stakeholders.

Together, we can build a municipality that is responsive, sustainable, and capable of meeting both the present and future needs of our residents.

## EXECUTIVE MAYOR VISITS INJABULO COMBINED SCHOOL TO SUPPORT LEARNERS AND PROMOTE QUALITY EDUCATION

*“Cllr. Ngelosi engages with educators and learners while providing essential resources to enhance educational outcomes ”*

by Thando Mngomezulu



The Executive Mayor of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Cllr. Ngelosi Ndhlovu, conducted a school visit to Injabulo Combined School in eMabola, Ward 3, on 28 April 2026.

The visit provided an opportunity for the Executive Mayor to engage directly with the school management, educators, and learners to gain a better understanding of the challenges affecting the school and to identify areas where collaborative support can strengthen teaching and learning outcomes. As part of the visit, the Executive Mayor donated school shoes, sanitary towels and toiletries to learners in need. The donation was aimed at alleviating some of the socio-economic challenges faced by vulnerable learners and ensuring that they can attend school with dignity, confidence and a sense of belonging.

Addressing learners, Cllr. Ndhlovu highlighted the transformative role of education in shaping individual futures and advancing community development.



She encouraged learners to remain committed to their studies, work diligently towards their goals and make full use of the educational opportunities available to them. Education remains one of the most powerful tools for personal growth and social advancement. Through dedication and perseverance, you can unlock opportunities that will enable you to contribute meaningfully to society,” said the Executive Mayor.

The Principal of Injabulo Combined School, Mr. M.M. Nhlabathi expressed his sincere appreciation to the Executive Mayor for the generous donation and continued support. He noted that such interventions have a significant positive impact on learners' lives and contribute to creating a more supportive and conducive learning environment. “Sodolomba, ngiyakuthembisa ukuthi sizoqhubeka sibe yisikolwe esibeka uMkhondo kubalazwe, ukukhombisa ukuba ukuseseka kwenu asikubukeli phansi neze” said the principal.



## GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY WHIP OF COUNCIL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

" LET'S BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION "

By Manqoba Mazibuko



The Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM) conducted an outreach programme at Zendeling Post Combined School in eNtombe, Ward 15, on 10 June 2026. The programme formed part of the municipality's commitment to supporting education and creating an enabling environment for learning.

The programme was led by the GSDM Whip of Council, Cllr B.A. Mtshali, accompanied by the District Executive Mayor, Cllr. Walter Mngomezulu and the Speaker of Council of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Cllr. M.Z. Ngwenya.

During the programme, the municipal leadership handed over materials that will be used for the refurbishment of desks and chairs at the school. The refurbishment project will be undertaken in partnership with the Community Work Programme (CWP), ensuring that learners benefit from improved classroom infrastructure and a more conducive learning environment.



Other significant donations included scientific calculators and two laptops, recognising the importance of technology in effective teaching, learning, and school administration. These resources will further support the school's day-to-day operations and enhance educational outcomes.



The initiative also fulfils a commitment made earlier this year during a school support drive led by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Hon. R. Mhaule, at Zendeling Post Combined School. During the visit, the Deputy Minister pledged that government would continue to work closely with communities and educational institutions to strengthen support for learners and improve access to quality education.



## FARE THEE WELL TO COUNCILLOR MTHOKOZISI AMADY SIMELANE

*“May your spirit live on, inspiring and guiding those lives you touched ”*

By Makholwa Gama

On a somber yet reverent day, the community of Mkhondo gathered to bid farewell to one of its dedicated leaders, the late Cllr. Mthokozisi Amady Simelane. The funeral service held on 30 May 2026, was an emotional tribute to the young man whose unwavering commitment to public service and the welfare of the residents of Ward 17 left an indelible mark on the municipality.

Simelane, who served as the Executive Mayor of Mkhondo Local Municipality from 2021 to 2022, was a beacon of hope and a pillar of strength in the community. His tenure, though brief, was characterized by visionary leadership and an enduring passion for uplifting the lives of those he represented. Not only did he address the pressing needs and concerns of his constituents, but he also played an integral role on various committees, including the Section 79, Corporate Services, Technical and Local Geographical Name Change Committees.

The funeral service was attended by family, friends, local leaders, residents, and several dignitaries who came to pay their respects. It was a heartfelt celebration of Simelane’s life, marked by shared memories, reflections on his contributions, and an acknowledgment of the legacy he left behind. Throughout the service, speakers highlighted his compassionate approach to leadership, emphasising his deep-rooted commitment to listening to the voices of his community.

As colleagues and friends shared stories of Cllr. Amady’s efforts to improve infrastructure and services in Ward 17, it became clear that he was more than just an elected official. He was a friend, a confidant, and a tireless advocate for the underrepresented. His efforts to address issues such as housing, sustainable service delivery and local economic development resonated throughout the community, earning him the respect and admiration of many.

The Speaker of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Cllr. Mduduzi Ngwenya, conveyed heartfelt condolences to the Simelane family, acknowledging the loss not just for the family but for the entire municipality.



## OVERSIGHT VISIT HIGHLIGHTS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON GABOSCH DAM WATER PROJECT

"IMPROVING WATER SECURITY IN MKHONDO"

By Hlengiwe Mthimkhulu



The Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality, Cllr. Walter Mngomezulu, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Cllr. Ngelosi Ndhlovu, together with representatives from various municipalities, conducted an oversight visit to the Gabosch Dam Project on 07 May 2026.

The oversight visit formed part of district's ongoing efforts to monitor the implementation and progress of key infrastructure projects aimed at improving service delivery across the district. During the visit, the delegation assessed the progress of the multi-million-rand water infrastructure project, which is currently 67% complete and is scheduled for completion on 23 October 2026.



The project has created employment opportunities for members of the local community and will continue to contribute to sustainable job creation. One of the beneficiaries, Ms. Zama Hadebe, who is employed as a Safety Officer, said the project has had a positive impact on her life and family. "Nami sengiyakwazi ukuxosha ikati eziko," said Ms Hadebe.

The Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality, Cllr. Walter Mngomezulu stated that once completed, the project will enhance investor confidence and contribute to sustainable economic growth in the district. Meanwhile, the Executive Mayor of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Cllr. Ngelosi Ndhlovu, expressed appreciation to the Department of Water and Sanitation for funding this strategic intervention and to Gert Sibande District Municipality for implementing this important project. Mayor Ndhlovu emphasised that projects of this nature do not only provide critical infrastructure but also restore dignity, protect livelihoods, strengthen local economies, and secure a sustainable future for communities. Upon completion, the Gabosch Dam Project is expected to significantly improve water security and support long-term socio-economic development across the district.



## MKHONDO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WINS TOP HONOURS AT GERT SIBANDE CLEANEST MUNICIPALITY AWARDS

“ A testament to dedication ,innovation and sustainability for Mkhondo “

By Manqoba Mazibuko



The achievement reflects the dedication, innovation, and hard work of the Environmental Management and Social Services Unit, under the leadership of Mr. Vusiwe Dube, whose commitment has contributed significantly to the municipality's success.

Mkhondo Local Municipality remains persistent in its mission to build a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for all residents. The recognition received at the district awards serve as motivation to continue raising the bar in environmental management and service delivery excellence.

Mkhondo Local Municipality has once again demonstrated its commitment to environmental sustainability and excellence in service delivery by securing second place overall at the Gert Sibande District Municipality Cleanest Municipality Competition Awards Ceremony, held on 29 May 2026 in Ermelo.

As part of this remarkable achievement, the municipality was awarded R100,000 and emerged as the first place winner in three key categories: Climate Change, Public Participation & Awareness and Water Management.

These awards are a testament to the municipality's ongoing efforts to promote environmental stewardship, sustainable development, and community involvement in protecting and preserving the environment.



## MKHONDO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA HOSTED A PRE-EDUCATION SESSION ON WATER SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL

By Trudy Mbatha

On 14 May 2026, Mkhondo Local Municipality, in partnership with the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, conducted a session on the Water Services Amendment Bill Public Hearing at Amsterdam Town Hall.

The purpose of the session was to prepare the community members for the upcoming public hearing on the Water Services Amendment Bill and to provide a clear understanding of the proposed amendments to water services legislation.

The amendment is to improve the water services Act of 1997, it will update and add some definitions in the law, the bill proposes that individuals who build, install, or operate water service systems to be formally registered.

Among other significant changes under consideration is the introduction of licensing system for municipalities and other entities that provide water services, establish an authority responsible for issuing water service licenses, Improve management and operation of water boards.



During the engagement, community members and officials deliberated on the ongoing water challenges affecting communities across South Africa. Discussions focused on the root causes of the water crisis, including aging infrastructure, water losses, vandalism, and other operational challenges, as well as possible interventions

to improve the delivery of reliable and sustainable water services. In attendance there were Officials from Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, Municipal Officials, Ward Councilors, School representatives and other key stakeholders.

## LIHLE CINDY MKHONZA TAKES OATH AS NEW MKHONDO PR COUNCILLOR

“New face joins Mkhondo Council “

By Makholwa Gama



Mkhondo Local Municipality officially welcomed a new Proportional Representation (PR) Councillor, Cllr. Lihle Cindy Mkhonza, during a sworn-in ceremony held on 12 May 2026 at the Mkhondo Local Municipality Council Chambers.

The sworn-in followed the resignation of Cllr. S.P Sibiba, which created a vacancy within the municipal council. Cllr. Mkhonza was duly elected to fill the position as a representative of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

The ceremony was presided over by Piet Retief Magistrate, Mr. DR Nxumalo, who administered the oath of office. The occasion was attended by the Speaker of Council, Cllr. Mduduzi Ngwenya, community members, municipal officials and other stakeholders who gathered to witness the formal induction of the new Councillor.

In taking the oath, Cllr. Mkhonza committed herself to upholding the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, adhering to the principles of good governance and serving the best interests of the people of Mkhondo.

As a young leader and youth representative, Cllr. Mkhonza is expected to bring fresh perspectives and champion issues affecting young people while contributing to the municipality's development agenda.

The Speaker of Council congratulated Cllr. Mkhonza and wished her success in her new role in public service. He expressed confidence in her ability to contribute positively to council proceedings and community development initiatives. “Today, marks the beginning of Councillor Mkhonza's tenure as a member of the Mkhondo Local Municipality Council. She will work alongside fellow councillors in addressing the needs and aspirations of abantu base Mkhondo,” said the Speaker.

**IBEYIMPUMELELO IMIHLANGANO KAMASIPALA WASEMKHONDO YOHLELO LWENTUTHUKO YOMPHAKATHI EDI-  
YELWE KANYE NESABELOZIMALI SONYAKAZIMALI KA-2026/2027**

"Masisukume sibambe iqhaza"

By Hlengiwe Mthimkhulu

UMasipala waseMkhondo ubambe imihlangano yoHlelo Oludidiyelwe Lwentuthuko Yomphakathi (IDP) kanye nesabelozimali sika-2026/2027 kusukela zingu 07 kuM-basa kuya zingama-30 kuMbaso 2026, kuzigceme zon-ke zaseMkhondo eziyishumi nesishiyagalolunye (19).

Lemihlangano ibiholwa amaKhansela ezigceme ngokuhlukana kwazo. Inhloso enkulu yalemihlangano bekuwukuxoxisana nomphakathi mayelana nezidingo zawo, ukulethwa kwezinsiza okuhambisana noHlelo lwe-IDP, kanye nokubuyekeza i-IDP yangaphambilini. Imihlangano ye IDP ibaluleke kakhulu ngoba ikhuthaza umphakathi ukuba ubambe iqhaza ekuthathweni kwezinqumo nokuqinisekisa ukuba isabelo zimali siyahambisana nezidingo zomphakathi. Akugcini lapho kodwa futhi ngesikhathi salemihlangano umphakathi uyakwazi ukuthola izimpendulo mayelana nendlela uMasipala osebenza ngayo, ulwazi mayelana nama-phrojekthi aqhubekayo kanye nezinye izinhlelo uMasipa-la ophezukwazo.



## DIE GROEN TOEKOMS VAN MKHONDO

*“Die 11de Jaarlikse Omgewingsberaad bring die gemeenskap saam vir ‘n volhoubare more”*

By Mikayla Jade



Op Vrydag, 5 Junie 2026, het die Omgewingsbestuur- en Maatskaplike-ontwikkelingsafdeling van Mkhondo Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, die 11de Jaarlikse Omgewingsberaad suksesvol aangebied by Welverdiend Gastehuis.

Die geleentheid het mense uit verskeie sektore van die gemeenskap saamgebring met een gemeenskaplike doel - om die omgewing te beskerm en 'n volhoubare toekoms vir almal te verseker.

Die beraad is aangebied onder die tema *“Volhoubare Gemeenskappe: ‘n Gedeelde Verantwoordelikheid”*. Verteenwoordigers van verskillende organisasies, regerings-

departemente, skole en die plaaslike munisipaliteit het bymekaargekom om idees uit te ruil en maniere te bespreek waarop die gemeenskap 'n positiewe verskil aan die omgewing kan maak.

Die fokus van die dag was nie net op uitdagings waarmee die omgewing gekonfronteer word nie, maar ook op geleenthede wat bestaan om verandering mee te bring. Een van die belangrikste onderwerpe was die toenemende probleem van plastiekafval en die invloed daarvan op die natu

-ur .Deelnemers is aangemoedig om meer verantwoordelike keuses te maak en aktief deel te neem aan programme wat daarop gemik is om besoedeling te verminder.

‘n Besondere hoogtepunt van die beraad was die deelname van leerders uit verskeie skole in Mkhondo. Hul deelname, entoesiasme en belangstelling het hoop geskep vir die toekoms.

Die beraad het ook die geleentheid gebied om terug te kyk op die vordering wat reeds gemaak is. Deur die jare het Mkhondo verskeie projekte en veldtogte geloods wat daarop gemik is om die omgewing te verbeter en gemeenskappe bewus te maak van hul rol in die beskerming daarvan. Hierdie pogings het nie ongemerk verbygegaan nie en dien as bewys van wat bereik kan word wanneer ‘n gemeenskap saamwerk.

Teen die einde van die beraad, het die deelnemers met nuwe kennis, vars inspirasie en ‘n hernude verbintenis vertrek. Die boodskap van die dag was duidelik: Wanneer ‘n gemeenskap saamstaan en verantwoordelikheid aanvaar vir hul omgewing, word die pad na ‘n skoner, groener en meer volhoubare toekoms moontlik gemaak.



## MKHONDO PUBLIC LIBRARY REOPENS

“RESTORING A HUB OF LEARNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT”

By Trudy Mbatha



Senior Manager for Environmental Management and Social Services, Mr Vusiwe Dube, presented attendees with tree seedlings to symbolise a journey that requires continuous care and nurturing. Dube emphasised the importance of maintaining clean, welcoming and well-kept library environments and urged community members to utilise the educational resources available to enhance their academic and personal development.

On 29 June 2026, the Mkhondo Local Municipality officially reopened the Mkhondo Public Library following repairs after the facility sustained damage during the severe storms of 11 November 2024.



The reopening ceremony marked the return of an important public institution that serves as a centre for education, literacy, research and community development. MMC for Community Services J.M Nkosi described the occasion as a symbol of resilience and the Municipality's continued commitment to ensuring residents have access to quality public services.



Addressing attendees, MMC for Community Services, Cllr J.M. Nkosi, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the vital role libraries play in building informed and empowered communities. He noted that a functional library supports learners, encourages a lifelong culture of learning, and preserves a culture of reading.



General Manager for Community Services, Ms Zamyambo Mthethwa, emphasised that the Municipality is not just restoring a library, but a place of sanctuary where people can broaden their knowledge, explore new ideas and unlock endless opportunities through learning.

## MKHONDO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHES INDIGENT SUPPORT RENEWAL DRIVE

*"Improving the Quality of Life of Mkhondo Residents Through the Indigent Support Renewal Drive"*

By Manqoba Mazibuko



Mkhondo Local Municipality officially launched its Indigent Support Renewal Drive on 18 May 2026, reaffirming its commitment to supporting vulnerable households and ensuring that qualifying residents continue to benefit from the municipality's indigent support programme.

The renewal drive aims to update and verify the information of existing beneficiaries while providing an opportunity for qualifying residents to apply for indigent assistance. This process is essential in ensuring that support reaches households that genuinely require assistance and that the municipality's indigent database remains accurate and up to date.

As part of the initiative, municipal officials have been conducting visits across all 19 wards to bring services closer to communities and improve access to essential municipal support.

The drive has been strengthened through the participation of key stakeholders, including officials from the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the South African Police Service (SAPS), who joined municipal teams to assist residents and ensure that community members receive the support and guidance they require during the renewal process.



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