



**ADDRESS BY HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,
CLLR PH MTHIYANE ON THE VISIT BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
(NCOP) "TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE PROGRAMME," 14
NOVEMBER 2022 AT UGU SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE.**

Programme Directors;

Hon. Sylvia Lucas, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, and

*Hon. Themba Mthembu, Deputy Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial
Legislature*

Amakhosi aseNdlunkulu akhona Phakathi kwethu,

Members of the National Parliament and the NCOP

Hon. Senzo Mchunu, Minister of Water and Sanitation

***Hon. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Co-operative Governance and
Traditional Affairs***

Members of the Provincial legislature

***MEC Champion and MEC of DSD, Hon Nonhlanhla Khoza, mama wethu
siyabingelela,***

***Hon. Sihle Zikalala, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Co-operative Governance and
Traditional Affairs***

Fellow Councillors, led by the District Speaker, Cllr Sizwe Ngcobo

Managers & officials of the NCOP, Departments and Municipalities

Business leaders & civil society organisations

Members of the Media

Bese ngokukhethekile ngibingelele umphakathi wasoGwini wonkana,

Sanibonani, Good morning, Mholweni

We wish to extend our gratitude to the Honourable Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr David Masondo, and the National Council of Provinces in identifying our District to host such a significant occasion. Nifike ngesikhathi esibalulekile kakhulu kuthina, lapho sidinga khona imibono nezaluleko kwizigaba zonkana ukusukela kwabashaya umthetho, ukuyiqhina kulabo ekumele baphilisane ngayo leyo mithetho. We are extremely hopeful that this visit and engagement will bring positive and impactful change to our communities and stakeholders, whose sincere request is an improved standard of living. Ukuzifikela kwenu mathupha kubantu kukhombisa kona ukuthi lo nguhulumeni obanakekela kakhulu abantu.

Honourable Chair, I stand here, not only as a leader in the District, but as a product of the valleys and dusty villages of Izingolweni, and I clearly understand the plight of an African child having risen from an impoverished background myself.

The Ugu District Municipality has a population of 825 thousand 482 citizens, with a total of 175 thousand 146 households. The district has a relatively young population with the 0 – 36 years making up 38.7% of total population. The Ugu District Municipality consists of 86 municipal wards, which culminate into four local municipalities, namely Umdoni, Umzumbe, Umuziwabantu and Ray Nkonyeni, and has forty (40) traditional council areas within its jurisdictional area.

In terms of access to basic service delivery, 67% of the households have access to water; 74% have access to electricity, and 91% have access to sanitation.

While we are mindful of the gap that must be bridged chairperson, and we want to state that this interaction must be seen as a sanctioned and legitimate way for our communities to voice out their honest opinions, constructive criticisms and matured outrage, to a larger extent, as opposed to destruction of pivotal infrastructure through violent protests that set us back on the programme of economic freedom we seek to improve and achieve.

I bring this afore because the municipality has suffered major financial and economic setback during the looting and violent protests of July 2021, whereby our fresh produce market and fleet management depot was gutted down by fire. That protest left our institution at a loss of equipment worth million meant to service our communities. TLB's, Trucks, Water Tankers, Excavators, Vehicles for our plumbers and general staff, offices and most unfortunately, lives, were all

lost as a result of those protests. Today we have a challenge water tankers that we use as backup in case of water breaks and where there is no infrastructure because of our torched fleet last year June.

Ngemuva kokuthi sithunyiwe ngo November kunyaka odlule, sihlalile siyisikhokhelo somkhandlu ukubonisana ngezingqinamba umkhandlu owawubhekene nazo, okumqoka kakhulu kuzona kuyizinkinga zamanzi angafikeleli kahle kubantu bakithi, izinkinga zezimali ezingekho kumaspala, kanye nokusebenza okungekho ezingeni elifanele ekuletheni izintsiza ebantwini ngendlela enesizotha. Sithathe isinqumo sokuthi siyokhala kuhulumeni ongaphezulu, sabika izinkinga sicela usizo oluphuthumayo. U-Hulumeni wesifunda, led by the former Premier, Mr Zikalala, and the Minister of Water and Sanitation, uBaba u-Senzo Mchunu, bafika mathupha in this same venue bezolalela zona lezinkinga in an effort to bring about solutions improve service delivery. We then resolved on a six-point plan as a programme of action to address our water challenges and formed a Water and Sanitation War Room that has been working tirelessly to achieve its set targets.

The Ugu District also suffered major setbacks from the April 2022 floods disaster that further damaged our already ageing infrastructure. The effects of that disaster are still being felt to this day as we are still grappling with the recovery process.

Programme director, apart from ageing infrastructure and power cuts affecting supply, the system has seen much needed improvement in water supply to our communities following the much-needed intervention by the Minister Water Services Minister Senzo Mchunu and Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Government. The War Room is continuing with its Programme of Action, futhi siyazi kahle ukuthi siseziningi izindawo esingekafikeleli kuzona, kodwa iProgramme of Action yethu Sinethemba elikhulu ukuthi izozixazulula lezinkinga zamanzi sisizana nohulumeni ongaphezulu. Okuningi kulokhu Mphathi wohlelo ngizongena kukona makufika iskhathi sama public hearings lapho sobe singena kuyona umaspala ngomaspala ukuthi yikuphi okusezihlelweni ukuqinisekisa ukuthi wonke umuntu uyawathola amanzi ahlanzekile, and a dignified sanitation. Sinethemba elikhulu futhi ukuthi njengoba abasebenzi ababexoshiwe ngezizathu ezithize, sebebuyiselwe emsebenzini kusukela ngomhla ka 1 November, kuyokwenza kube lula kakhulu ukusebenza nokuthi sikwazi ukufikelela ebantwini ngophazama kweso kunasekuqaleni. We still have a big elephant in the room of illegal connections that are hampering our

infrastructure, especially in our predominantly rural and peri urban communities. At some point, even our workers are culprits to the illegal connections and it's a cancer that we need to nib, of course with the assistance of our communities.

Taking into cognisance that provision of quality water to all our communities is essential for economic development, health as well as fulfilling our people's constitutional rights. Our commitment to developing and maintaining infrastructure to better supply water and sanitation services will be the bedrock of attracting investment and ensure effective economic development and beneficiation in our District.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as government, we collectively envision an improved economy with our local economic development sector. The National Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs has embarked upon an initiative to develop the Eastern Seaboard Region, which will ultimately culminate in the development of smart African cities. This was launched by Honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa here at the Ugu Sports & Leisure on 12 November 2021.

Following the many meetings held and presentations within DDM structures, ngiyacabanga Mphathi Wohlelo kuyobaluleka ukuthi sibazise abantu bakuthi ukuthi le Eastern Seaboard Development okanye lento esithi yi Smart African Cities esayilethelwa UPresident Ramaphosa, sabonisana ngama project abalelwa ku 50 esicabanga ukuthi ayoletha ushintsho olubaluleke kakhulu kwezomnotho we District yethu. Kulo 50, siqhubeke sabonisana ngawu 10 esicabanga ukuthi kungaqalwa ngawo ukukhulula ukusebenza kwi District yethu.

These 10 priority projects will see the integration of a revitalized and redeveloped railway line for goods and passengers from Ethekeweni down to Shelly-Margate-Nzimakwe, and inland to Umuziwabantu through Gcilima Izingolweni, and inland at Umzinto through Umzumbe to Harry Gwala.

The 10 priority projects will see the extension of Margate Airport and including piloting smart city initiatives orientated around the airport. We have also prioritized the Port and Harbour Development in any of Port Shepstone, Hibberdene and Port Edward areas. It will see a Broadband Roll-out: including free wi-fi zones, Industrial Parks development like the planned one at Ifafa, and revitalization of existing ones like in Harding, Marburg, Kelso and so on.

All the mentioned projects will link into one complex, interaction development that includes all our areas, benefiting our people through job opportunities, economic inclusion and beneficiation of the previously disadvantaged and poor, and ultimately bringing much needed investment into our District.

With that tabled before you Honourable members, I am hoping, in fact I am positive that you will extensively discuss and consider our District in terms of planning, budgeting and resource allocation. Our fundamental hope, ultimately, is to find quicker and more effective ways that will help government to address the challenges faced by our people as they navigate their daily lives.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to wish you well during your deliberations and on behalf of the citizens of Ugu, I wish to welcome you all to beautiful District.

I thank you.

ENDS

CLlr PH Mthiyane - Mayor: Ugu District Municipality
ISSUED BY: UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY