



Alfred Nzo News

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ALFRED NZO
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ALFRED NZO LAUNCHES R114.4 MILLION WATER PROJECT IN MOUNT FRERE

Alfred Nzo District Municipality launched R114.4 million Ntibane and Umzimvubu Ward 13 Water Supply Schemes that will benefit 17 815 population of ward 10, 12 and 13 in Umzimvubu Local Municipality and on the same day it also launched R1.4 million maize production and fencing projects at Mtsila village in KwaBhaca (formerly known as Mount Frere).

The project launches were part of the municipality's commitment to providing clean running water to rural communities as well as eradicating poverty and unemployment in the district.

Speaking on behalf of the Executive Mayor, the Chief Whip of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Noziphiwo Tobo said the multi-million rand Ntibane and Ward 13 Water Supply Schemes combined will bring clean water to villages of Mgungundlovu, Qhanqu, Mhlotsheni, Lutshikini, Mtsila, Qhanqu, Mpoza, Lutateni, Manqilweni, Tyeni, Nguse, Gubhuzi, Mhlutha and Nyosini.

These two projects created more than 450 job opportunities for locals during construction phases and they will bring water to more than 4 379 households.

"We will continue to work tirelessly towards ensuring that all rural villages and towns of the district have access to clean reliable water services with the limited resources that we have," said Tobo.

She also announced that phase two of the Ntibane project would commence soon.

The scope of the Ntibane project includes construction of Water Treatment Works, river abstraction, pump station, 2ML Reservoir and booster pump station as well as construction of 17.8 km bulk pipe line, 3 reservoir, 2 booster hand pump and pump station, construction of 6.6km reticulation and installation of stand pipe.

A 34 year old villager Tembakazi Dolo, from Hlane expressed her excitement about the water scheme projects.

"We are very grateful that phase 1 of the project is complete and we looking forward for the final stage that will bring water to our taps," she excitedly said.



Above: Alfred Nzo District Municipality Executive Mayor, Sixolile Mehlomakhulu, ANC Provincial Secretary, Oscar Mabuyane, Eastern Cape Premier, Phumulo Masualle, Dali Tambo and his wife Rachel during the O. R. Tambo statue unveiling at Mbizana youth centre, (see the full story on page 3)

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Produced by the Alfred Nzo District Municipality Communications Unit

R1.4 million maize production projects launched at Mtsila village

As part of fighting poverty, unemployment and inequality, Alfred Nzo District Municipality launched maize production and fencing projects at Mtsila village in KwaBhaca.



Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) responsible for Local Economic Development (LED), Nathi Nqoko said: "The R1.4 million project form part of Agri-Park initiative which is aimed at bringing underutilised land – especially the communal land – into full production as well as fighting unemployment and poverty, with this project we will see the ploughing of 130 hectors of land and fencing of 16 projects owned cooperatives across the district"

Nqoko said the municipality has completed the fencing project and already started cultivating land at Mtsila village.

"Masiphuhle Agricultural Cooperative owns the project we are launching today here in Mtsila and we ploughing 35 hectares for them," he said adding that the project would benefit 25 members of the cooperative.

Nqoko said other cooperatives to benefit include: Mfundeni Agricultural Cooperative, Xhwili Agricultural Cooperative and Mbumbazi Primary Limited Coopera-

Above: Alfred Nzo District and Umzimvubu councillors with beneficiaries of maize production during the official launch of the project at Mtsila village

tive in Umzimvubu Local Municipality. Nomatyeba project cooperative limited, Siyacela Primary Cooperative Limited, Sinothando primary Agricultural co-op Limited and Bagqozini Farming Primary Cooperative in Ntabankulu . Meanwhile he said Naledi Matima Farming Primary Cooperative Limited, Lingelangomso Youth Development Primary Cooperative, Thakaso Primary Agricultural Cooperative and Masizameleni Primary Cooperative in Matatiele would also benefit.

Alfred Nzo District Municipality Chief Whip, Noziphiwo Tobo who was speaking on behalf of the Executive Mayor said: "Development cannot only be achieved by only providing clean running water, sanitation, roads and other infrastructural needs but by also igniting local economic development in our region".

Building tomorrow`s legends today, know your status

In its efforts to respond to HIV and AIDS epidemic and encouraging an HIV & AIDS free generation, Alfred Nzo District Municipality held a World Aids Day Commemoration at Emabhanoyini Sport Ground in Mbizana.



World Aids day is celebrated to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and also to remember loved ones who have succumbed the virus and its related illness, whilst mobilising communities to work together to fight the scourge and also showing solidarity with people who are living with the virus.

Speaking during the commemoration Portfolio Head for Special Programmes Cllr. Jackie Bosman – Magangana said: "As we approach World Aids Day on 1 December, we are inspired by the many actions taken by South Africans from all walks of life over many years to fight HIV/AIDS. We odd to thanks their efforts, we have the biggest HIV treatment programme in the world, with nearly 3.5 million people on life-saving anti-retrovirals".

Above: Alfred Nzo District Municipality Special Programmed Unit (SPU) Portfolio Head, Cllr. Jackie Bosman—Magangana speaking during World AIDS Day

"Government is bringing care and treatment of TB to the doorstep of vulnerable citizens across the district," she added.

Meanwhile, Siyabonga Diko from Department of Health said this is the day where South Africa as a whole remind people that HIV/AIDS still exists and the department is giving support to those that are neither affected nor infected as well as to honour those who have passed away because of HIV/AIDS. He encouraged people to use protection all the time and constantly use of treatment by the infected.

A 17 year old Afika Mkhonza from Sinyaka location, also known as Indoni YaMampondo said this day meant a lot to young people as it encourages and remind them to remain faithful to their dreams and not involve themselves on things that might risk them into getting infected by the virus.



Above: Attendees during the World AIDS Day Commemoration in Mbizana

Nomlindo Londiwe Groom who is the spokesperson of people living with HIV/AIDS said there are people who are living with HIV/AIDS that are still refusing to take treatment. "We are here to encourage those people to take treatment and live longer.

Nomvuyo Msokana Mayoral Committee member who was speaking on behalf of the Executive Mayor Sixolile Mehlomakhulu said: "it is everyone`s responsibility to fight against HIV/AIDS". She further encouraged people to get tested for HIV regularly so that they can know when to take treatment.

Executive Mayor reports on 100 days and outlines his vision

Alfred Nzo District Municipality Executive Mayor, Sixolile Mehlomakhulu has outlined his vision to provide all communities in the district with basic service delivery over the next five years. He also reported on progress made in his first 100 days in office since the Local Government Elections in August.



Above: Executive Mayor engaging stakeholders about his visions and report back on 100 days in office during the stakeholder engagement session

Addressing the media at a briefing session held at Alfred Nzo District Municipality headquarters in Mount Ayliff, the mayor expressed his determination in maintaining the momentum on delivering major improvements for the communities of Alfred Nzo.

He outlined a number of successes, challenges and plans for the next five years of his tenure.

He also engaged broader stakeholders, including ratepayers' associations, traditional leaders, hawkers, farmers, traditional healers; faith-based organisations and non-governmental organisations with the aim to solicit their views, input and suggestions on how best the council can work with them to find long lasting solutions for the development of the district. He also asked them for ideas on how best the council can improve service provision to the communities of the district.

Matatiele Local Municipality's Ratepayers Association representative, Nazir Shaik said they appreciate the engagement they had with the Executive Mayor. "Our engagement covered a number of concerns that are worrying us as ratepayers such as the billing system, quality of water and he promised to work with us in finding solutions on these matters and we welcome that," he said "We want them to be part of the change they want to see. Working with all these stakeholders, there will be positive change that will develop and flourish in our communities," said Mehlomakhulu.

Left: Matatiele Ratepayers Association representative, Nazir Shaik during the Executive Mayor's stakeholder engagement in Mount Ayliff



O. R. Tambo statue unveiled in Mbizana

Eastern Cape Premier, Phumulo Masualle, Alfred Nzo District Municipality Executive Mayor, Sixolile Mehlomakhulu and Mayor of Mbizana, Daniswa Mafumbatha unveiled the O. R. Tambo Statue in Mbizana. The O. R. Tambo statue is the first ever of its size to be erected in his home town and province of the Eastern Cape, particularly in his rural town of Mbizana. Oliver Tambo was born in Nkantolo village on the 27 of October 1917. In his key note address, Premier Masualle said Tambo worked hard for the attainment of democracy. "As leaders in government, we always take courage from the work of O. R. Tambo to develop the rural villages especially here in Mbizana, so that the world can come and learn about his early life here and footsteps in him home rural Mbizana, as he was the world icon," he said. "This is also a launch of yearlong O. R. Tambo centenary celebrations that would be taking place throughout the country," said the Premier.

Dali Tambo who is O. R. Tambo's son said the Tambo family was delighted by the recognition his father received from the people of Alfred Nzo District Municipality. "Our father loved this place and although he went and fought outside the province and country, his heart was always here," said Dali Tambo. Tambo, is the longest serving President of the African National Congress (ANC) who along with other anti-apartheid activists paved the way for a free South Africa,

The O. R. Tambo statue unveiling in his home town precedes his centenary celebrations that are expected to kick off next month and his life and times will be widely celebrated across the country and the globe throughout 2017.

"We hope that this statue will serve to inspire future generations of young people to embrace the ideals that Oliver Tambo dedicated his life to," said Alfred Nzo District Municipality Executive Mayor, Sixolile Mehlomakhulu.

President Zuma launches R53.5 million Rural Development Hub in Mbizana

President Jacob Zuma officially launched the Mbizana Rural Enterprise Development (RED) Hub, which is an OR Tambo Centenary Project at Dyifani village in Mbizana, in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality.

In his State of the Nation Address in February, President Zuma declared 2017 the year of Oliver Reginald Tambo, who would have been 100 had he lived.

The Mbizana RED Hub is one of the four RED hubs in the Eastern Cape, implemented by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR)'s agency, the Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ECRDA) and covers six wards which constitute 14 villages in the Mbizana Local Municipality. These wards have registered 14 primary co-operatives that have then formed a secondary co-operative which is a structure that owns the RED Hub.

The RED Hub, which is an investment of R53.3 million, will service the villages with a strong focus on value addition of grain as well as Hub primary production, mechanisation and establishment of a trading centre for farmers to assist cooperatives in growing the local rural economy to create jobs and sustainable livelihoods.



Executive Mayor, Sixolile Mehlomakhulu greets the President of South Africa, His Excellency, Jacob Zuma in Mbizana



Left : Executive Mayor, Cllr Sixolile Mehlomakhulu welcoming the Argentine Ambassador his excellency J. Figueroa



Left to Right: M.E.C for DRDAR, Mlibo Qhoboshiyane, Argentine Ambassador J. Figueroa, Executive Mayor of O.R Tambo Cllr Nomakhosazana Meth and Alfred Nzo District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Sixolile Mehlomakhulu at the visit

ARGENTINA PARTNER TO ACCERALERATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Executive Mayors of Alfred Nzo and O. R. Tambo district Municipality welcomed the Argentine Ambassador to the region, His Excellency, Mr. J. E. Figueroa in a ceremony recently in Mthatha.

The visit is emanating from the bilateral agreement between Argentine and South African governments which is aimed at realising agricultural sector wherein the ambassador and his delegation would be looking at agricultural opportunities for investment in the two district municipalities.

“Agriculture is one of the drivers of our local economic development in our region, likewise in Argentina, and therefore we expect to look at technological advancement in the sector to further grow our economies” said the two district executive mayors, Sixolile Mehlomakhulu and Nomakhosazana Meth.

The ambassador and executive mayors directly interacted with the

emerging farmers from both districts to get the feel of the sector in the regions and also engage farmers about potential opportunities that could be explored.

COUNCIL CLOSING CEREMONY BENEFITS ELDERLY PEOPLE

More than twenty disadvantaged elderly people were presented with Christmas presents which included groceries during the Council year end prayer that was held at Ndlantaka village in Ntabankulu. The Council year end prayer was also part of taking the Council closer to the people as well as involving Faith Based Organisations as stakeholder into the municipal affairs. We want all Faith Based Organisations and all our stakeholders as well communities to play their part in the development of our district,” said Council Speaker, Tsileng Sobuthongo adding that the reason for the event was the Council’s attempt to reach every segment of our communities.



Above: Deputy Executive Mayor, Sandile Sello, Umzimvubu Local Municipality Mayor, Bulelwa Mabhengu, Alfred Nzo District Municipality Mayor, Sixolile Mehlomakhulu and Ntabankulu Mayor, Vusi Mgoduka handing over groceries to elderly people during the Council prayer at Ndlantaka village in Ntabankulu

A 56 year old Thandeka Mafunda from Matatiele could not hold years of joy as she received Christmas groceries. “We sometimes sleep on empty stomach as no one is working in the family,” she proudly said. “I wish the municipality can continue with these social upliftment programmes has many families are living on the poverty line just as me. “I am happy that my children will also have delicious Christmas food like other children from advantaged families, we will definitely enjoy our Christmas, may God bless our municipal leaders,” she excitedly said.

Alfred Nzo District Municipality Executive Mayor, Sixolile Mehlomakhulu said it made happy to elderly rejoicing get food for their grandchildren and also encourage businesses and civil society formation to always remember to hand out Christmas gifts for less fortunate.

“We want to close the inequality gap for at least this Christmas time, we pray to God to assist us as leaders in our attempt to fight poverty and inequality in our district,” said Mayor Mehlomakhulu, adding that he was happy to see smiles on their faces.

DROUGHT UPDATE

Alfred Nzo District Municipality is still experiencing drought that has been affecting the region since 2015. The recent rainfalls that the district has received are not enough to provide much needed relief to dams and boreholes that are supplying many communities across the district with water. Ntabankulu has recorded a slight increase in dam levels as it is currently standing at 40%.

That is however not enough to sustain water supply to Ntabankulu residents. In Matatiele the water levels are also improving as the closed Matatiele dam recorded 50% water levels and it is still closed to allow it to gain more water levels before it restart supplying water. Currently boreholes are supplying water to communities until full recovery of the dam. Belfort dam, however is still below half as it is currently standing at 45% that is not sustainable to supply water to communities. In Umzimvubu, Mount Ayliff is currently supplied by three water sources namely; Mzintlava River, Sirhoqobeni weirs and Sikhemane spring and water levels at these river streams are also slightly picking up. Ntenetyana dam is also below its half mark seating at 48%.

Alfred Nzo District Municipality wishes to thank all our communities who have heeded the call of saving water when requested due to the prevailing drought conditions. The municipality urges all communities to continue saving water as the drought is not over yet and reminds all residents that water is a scarce precious resource that we cannot live without. Lets all do our bid to save and use water sparingly.

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