Mandeni Municipality has launched a ground-breaking Evutha Electrification Project which will light up households in ward 6 of Evutha area in Mandeni. Funded by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Phase One of the Evutha Electrification Project will electrify 400 homes within ward 6.

During a consultation meeting with the community on Thursday 1 October 2015, Mandeni Mayor Cllr Sphesihle Zulu said the Municipality received R8 million from Cogta to kick start the project. Mayor Zulu said extensive research will be conducted to ensure that needy beneficiaries receive electricity in their homes. His Worship assured the community that this is not the first or the last meeting that the Municipality will engage with them regarding the Evutha project. “We will hold meetings informing the community about the continuous progress of the project,” said Mayor Zulu.

The Municipality said they will be free limited electricity amps that the household will be able to use to cook, charge their phones and connect their fridges. However, if the households wish to add heavier electrical appliances than that household would have to apply to Eskom to have their electricity usage increased and they would have to pay for that electricity.
Mayor’s Message

Once again I am honoured to be able to share with you the progress Mandeni Municipality has made to benefit its residents. This is our second newsletter in 2015 and I am excited to share with you the many initiatives we have implemented to move the lives of the people of Mandeni forward.

I am proud to once again share with you that we maintained our Municipality’s clean audit record. In our mission to deliver services to our residents and develop our municipality we have remained committed to ensuring that all our policies are adhered to.

One of our main focus points is to unhang the burdens of the past that so many of our residents still suffer from. The triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty are cycles we are determined to break, not only to alleviate our communities from these challenges but also change the direction of our municipality. In an effort to empower our youth with skills ten students within our Municipality travelled to China to be trained in textile and clothing manufacturing. Such training programmes do not only add to the upliftment of skills shortage within the municipality, but also empower our youth with skills and employment while contributing positively towards Mandeni’s economy. Such stories are inspiring and good stories to share with our communities so that many more youths will know that the future is in educating themselves.

Infrastructure development in our municipality is an ongoing process for us to unlock the full potential of drawing investors into Mandeni. We are also currently in the process of implementing housing development projects in areas such as Mathonsi’s wards 5, 10 and 12 and the Isithebe Slums. The Constitution of our Republic states that “everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing” and that the “state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right”. This government will never shy away from providing dignified housing for our people. We have also recently launched the Evutha Electrification Project which will light up households in ward 6 of the Evutha community. Phase one of the Evutha Electrification Project will light up 400 homes within ward 6. We must all stand united and against violence of women and children, not only for the “16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children” but every day of our lives. Our men should take an active role in ending the abuse of women and children who play a pivotal role in building and strengthening our communities.

We wish you a safe and joyous festive season.

Let us continue moving Mandeni forward.

Municipal Managers Message

It is pleasure to work for a Municipality which is dedicated to improving the lives of its people. Mandeni Municipality is still on the right path to deliver on its municipal mandates we promised to our residents. We are a municipality which is committed and focused in meeting our service delivery targets as laid out in the Integrated Development Plan and Budget Implementation Plan.

Our goal in attracting investors both locally and abroad is on the right track. We are part of an investment programme by the Switzerland Government which invested R200 million towards community development and infrastructural projects within Mandeni and two other local municipalities within the district. We have also had other investors, investing large sums of money towards the rehabilitation of Isithebe Industrial Park. Such investments will provide employment and help alleviate poverty while restoring the dignity of a striving industrial Municipality.

We have embarked on the Mayoral Imbizo’s which are a chance for us to get out of our municipal offices and report back to our communities. The public is offered a chance to get answers to questions they have, voice their concerns and we as the administration get to take advice from the people on the programmes and services we have in place. We have also started embarking on phase one of the 2016/17 IDP/ Budget Roadshows which see us once again seeking the input of the residents of Mandeni on how our budget for the upcoming financial year will be drafted.

We remain deeply committed to the Back to Basics programme we committed ourselves and started implementing this year. The programme is aimed to get back to the basics of service delivery and we have been doing just that within our communities.

I would like to thank all the residents of Mandeni for their continued support in the operations of our office. Your patience and trust in us delivering needed services to you, is what makes us continuously strive to get our Municipality back on track to being a true economic hub which will benefit all who live within Mandeni. We cannot achieve the greatness that this municipality is capable of achieving alone; we need the assistance of the entire community.

Let us all strive to move Mandeni forward together.
The 2nd annual Mandeni Municipality Mayoral Cup was a thrilling success as young sports men and women from all corners of Mandeni, showcased their talent, on Saturday 28 November 2015 at the Sundumbili Sports Ground. Mayor Cllr Sphesihle Zulu created the Cup to promote and support different sport codes amongst the young people of the Municipality.

Premier Soccer League soccer team, Maritzburg United played a heart stopping match against the iLembe Salga soccer team, which saw the “Team of Choice” (Maritzburg United) win a hard fought victory of 4-0. Mayor Zulu said he is proud of the tournament as it showcases the raw sporting talent the youth of Mandeni has to offer. “We want the very youth that is playing today in these fields, to one day play for professional clubs like Maritzburg United.” He continued that the municipality will continue funding this event every year as it is a great programme to discourage the youth from engaging in social ills such as drugs and crime.

The tournament boasted four different sport codes which included Athletics, Soccer, Netball and Karate to cater for every community members sporting choice. Musicians such as Durbanite and other local artists also entertained the crowds.

Benfica FC narrowly won 6 – 5 against Lions FC on penalties, the under 17 MP Thwala FC beat Barcelona FC 5-4 on penalties on the under 17 and Mandeni Rockers FC won the final 5-4 against FNB FC.

Switzerland Government has invested R200 million towards development and infrastructure in the Mandeni Municipality, iLembe District and KwaDukuza Municipality. This investment will go a long way towards job creation and help in the alleviation of poverty within Mandeni.

Mandeni Mayor, His Worship, Cllr Sphesihle Zulu expressed joy about the project and said such investments will provide employment and help alleviate poverty while restoring the dignity of the Municipality. “Mandeni used to be known as a striving industrial Municipality that had many of its citizens employed, such an investment will bring back hope and drive for our communities that a new horizon full of possibilities is imminent,” said Mayor Zulu. The Honourable Mayor continued that infrastructure development will open the doors for economic growth for Mandeni. “This investment will not only benefit the economy of Mandeni but our Municipality can finally play an integral part in growing the economy of our Province,” said Mayor Zulu.

MEC for Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs Mike Mabuyakhulu said the majority of the money will go towards increasing businesses in Mandeni, as there are many business people and businesses that are in need of capital funding. Mabuyakhulu added that new offices will be established which will be dedicated to monitoring the investments progress, “They will be an office that will monitor if the money is being used appropriately, our department will work closely with the municipalities concerned to help them with the investment so they will be able to flourish,” he said.
Mandeni Municipality will once again host the much anticipated iBeach Xperience Music and Lifestyle Festival from 27-29 December 2015 at the Dokodweni Lagoon. iBeach Xperience is a fun and festive lifestyle getaway event which caters for the whole family.

In its 4th year, the iBeach Xperience is now bringing you a selection of fresh offerings geared at promoting local talent. The iBeach Xperience Ambassador search is a new initiative to get the young people of Mandeni to represent the Municipality. The search saw a group of local talented and adventurous boys and girls from Mandeni, competing to be a part of this life changing opportunity to represent the iBeach Xperience to all local North Coasters and visitors from all corners of South Africa.

The ambassador search had a great turn out and response from a host of local personalities which praised the event for recognizing Mandeni, its people and its potential. Chosen from the long list are Lelo Nkosi, Dj Vaccine Dlamini, Mazwi Ian Goodman, Bongeka Shange and Zinhle Madela. The group encapsulates the various personalities and talents that Mandeni has to offer. The top 5 stands out as each of the chosen represents a specific person, place and culture which is to be celebrated in and around the area they hail from.

The group will be part of the various activations across the North Coast which are dedicated to showcasing all the colours of the rainbow which represent the iBeach Xperience. The three day fiesta will have kiddies adventure and beach sports, indigenous activities, iBeach adventure relay circuit, IBX camping Xperience, delicious food and drinks and great music. The iBeach Xperience this year promises to be to be an extra lifestyle getaway like no other for the whole family. It doesn't matter where you are from, Joburg to Mpumalanga, Swaziland to Mozambique, the IBX promises you an experience that will leave a lasting impression in your mind.

Infrastructural upgrades making road use easier for rural communities

Rural communities within Mandeni Municipality have benefitted from the Municipality's rural roads upgrade project. The project was aimed at upgrading various rural access roads to gravel wearing course finish. The projects upgraded 5 km roads with a width that varied from 5 -7 meters included earthworks, layer-works, storm water pipe installation, gabion construction, concrete V drains and road signage installation.

The upgrading of these various rural access roads will assist the communities of Wards 9, 16 and 17 in the area of the Mandeni Municipality by providing safe access to schools, factories, clinic’s and sports facilities in the areas of Enyoni, Isithebe and Macambini. Buses and taxis have also increased their travel usage of the newly developed rural roads which has made travel cheaper, easier and safer for all the residents of the area.

The project commenced in May 2014 and was completed in December 2014.
Mandeni Municipality welcomes the donation of a 12 metre solar powered internet container by Samsung and Hesto to Siyavikelwa Senior Primary School in Sundumbili, on Friday August 28 2015.

The shipping container is filled with 25 Samsung tablets, a whiteboard and Samsung smart school solution programme that will help teachers monitor pupils when they are using tablets.

Siyavikelwa Deputy Principal Vivin Mkhwanazi said the school is thankful for the donation, as it will not only contribute towards the upliftment of learners within the school but will also help connect the community of Sundumbili as it will be open to the community during after school hours and on the weekend. “Whenever our pupils need to get information from the internet, they used to leave the school early so that they can go to the library. But with this computer lab they can do everything they need to within the school premises,” said Mkhwanazi.

Mayor Zulu promises quality housing for residents

Mandeni Municipality Mayor Cllr Sphesihle Zulu has assured the community of Mathonsi of ward 5, 10 and 12, that phase two of the Mathonsi Housing Project will be strictly monitored to ensure quality housing and to prioritize beneficiaries in need.

Mayor Zulu said this on his Mayoral Visit at Machibini sport field during a series of IDP road shows, which took place on Friday 25 September 2015. The Mayor informed the community about phase two of Mathonsi housing project which will consist of one thousand houses. He also reassured the community that the Municipality is listening and addressing the concerns raised by the community of Mathonsi especially regarding the construction of phase one. Mayor Zulu said the municipality is committed to ensuring that quality homes are delivered to all the people of Mandeni.

Cllr Zulu said since beginning his term of office, the Municipality has taken great strides in developing the communities of Mandeni to lead a better life. He stressed that his office has ensured that infrastructure development is a priority especially to drive economic growth and to open the doors for potential investors for Mandeni.

Phase two of the Mathonsi housing project will be completed over the next three years and the municipality will ensure that local residents benefit from the construction of the homes.

Mandeni Municipality encourages the private sector to contribute towards the growth and development of the youth and community of Mandeni.

Mayor Zulu urges residents to use water wisely

Mandeni Municipality is urging all residents and businesses within the municipality to use water wisely and sparingly. Our drought stricken province has been declared a disaster area, as the worst drought in decades tightens its grip on every corner of KwaZulu – Natal. Many of our once over flowing dams are now dry and ghosts of their former glory.

Water restrictions have been implemented across the province, in an effort to help reduce the pressure our water systems are currently facing. Mayor Cllr Sphesihle Zulu, is calling on everyone within Mandeni to preserve water accordingly by fixing or reporting leaking pipes, fixing dripping taps in their homes, businesses or places of gathering and report illegal water usage to the municipality. Residents are also encouraged not to water their gardens using fresh drinking water, abstain from using water hoses to wash their cars and not to wash their dishes under running water, to name just a few of the methods they can implement as part of their daily lives.

Be part of the change and help save water today!

Residents are urged to report any water related queries to the office of the Mandeni Municipality.
Mandeni Community Park

Mandeni Community Park: Speaker Cllr Makhosazane Zungu, Cllr Nathi Hlabisa with PSC members.

Mandeni Municipality has opened a new recreational park for the people of Mandeni in Sundumbili Township along uMsuthinja stream. The recently finished Community Park which caters for all members of the community was funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs at a cost of R3.4 million and features modern recreational facilities such as braai stands and ablution blocks.

During an IDP roadshow visit at Machibini sports field, on Friday 25 September 2015, the Project Steering Committee, reported to the community on the success of the project. The construction of the park employed 95 young people with 45 being females within Mandeni, who learnt basic landscaping skills. Six young people from the group have been permanently employed by the contractor who was tasked with constructing the park.

Community Parks ensure a safe environment for the children and their families to play and entertain themselves, which is critical to social cohesion within the communities of Mandeni.

His Worship Mayor Cllr Sphesihle Zulu will officially hand over the Community Park to Mandeni residents later this year, during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

Recreation Park opened for the community of Mandeni

A new sports field in Macambini ward 8 has been opened for the community to enjoy. The construction of the 120 m x 90m, R6 million sports field started in February this year, consists of an ablution facility which has two changing rooms, toilets, showers, hand washing basins and Jojo tanks on top of the facility.

The sports field will encourage the local youth to use this field for sports and training in Macambini and surrounding areas such as Kwa-Chili and others.

A safe sports field is a great recreational facility to discourage the youth from engaging in social ills such as crime and early teenage sex, which often hinder the futures of our precious youth. The youth and the entire community, young and old will now have a recreational place within their community, where they can gather together and have various activities such as exercise and sports. This will encourage social cohesion and a more active and healthy community.

Ten students within the Mandeni Municipality will travel to China to be trained in textile and clothing manufacturing for two months. The training programme was established by a Chinese textile and clothing manufacturing company called Yiting Africa in partnership with Trade and Investment in KwaZulu Natal.

Yiting Africa has invested R50 million and plans to open a manufacturing plant in Mandeni, which will see the employment of 150 women within the Municipality. The ten chosen youth, who were chosen from the National Youth Development Agency's database and tertiary institutions of the Durban University of Technology and Mfolozi Tvet College, will be trained to acquire all the necessary skills needed in the textile and clothing industry, and will then return to Mandeni to practice their skills to lead in teaching the 150 newly employed women.

Mandeni Municipality Mayor Cllr Sphesihle Zulu congratulated the young women for being true examples that education is the key to a better tomorrow. "Education is important and the youth should at least have a matric certificate to be able to get opportunities like these. If the youth runs away from getting an education, they are running away from their futures,” said Mayor Zulu.

Mayor Zulu said this programme will not only add to the upliftment of skills shortage within the municipality, but will empower women with technical skills and employment while contributing positively towards Mandeni’s economy.

New Sports Field to encourage social cohesion

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Mandeni Municipality libraries celebrated Literacy Day on Wednesday, 9 September 2015, at Ndulinde Library. International Literacy Day is observed annually on the 8th of September, to highlight the importance of literacy in communities around the world. This year’s theme according to the United Nations was “Literacy and Sustainable Societies,” which recognises that literacy is a key driver for sustainable development and new innovative technology.

500 learners from various schools within Mandeni attended the event, where 70 learners who completed a Computer Literacy Programme were handed over their certificates for completing the computer course. A renowned storyteller, poet and author Dr Gcina Mhlophe was the programme director, she encouraged the learners present to be readers and always strive for excellence. Dr Mhlophe also donated books to the schools who attended the celebration.

The Municipality also held a Career Day Expo at Ndulinde Library on the 23rd of September 2015. The Expo targeted learners in grade 11 from schools within the Mandeni circuit. The High School Career Expo was aimed at providing career guidance to the learners, in partnership with the Durban University of Technology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Zululand, Mangosuthu University of Technology, Umfolozi College, NSFAS Eskom, and the Department of Basic Education. Umfolozi College announced 6 sewing bursaries to be awarded to youth residing in the Ndalinde Area.

The Mandeni Municipality is committed to improving the lives of its young people and believes education is the key to eradicating the triple challenges facing the lives of our youths, which are unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Empowering young women to take South Africa forward...

Mandeni Municipality recently held a Symposium on Young Women’s Sexuality, on Friday 21 August 2015, at the eBanda Hotel in Ballito. Under the theme “Mandeni’s Young Women’s taking South Africa Forward” the aim of the symposium was to educate school going girls about sexuality and how to conduct themselves today for a better, brighter future tomorrow.

Addressing the school girls present, Mandeni Municipality Mayor, Cllr Sphesihle Zulu said young women should strive to always achieve greatness, so that will not only empower their lives but change the circumstances of their families and communities.

"The freedom charter states that the doors of learning and culture shall be opened, this means that it is imperative that young adults should have the opportunity to go to school and be educated regardless of their circumstances,” said Mayor Zulu. The Mayor continued that women should be educated so they will always know their rights and have confidence to limit the chances of them being abused. Mayor Zulu warned young girls about the dangers of engaging in substance abuse and early teenage sex.

The young women and the stakeholders present engaged about the challenges their experience in their everyday lives as young girls. Busisiwe Khoza one of the learners from Ndondakusuka Secondary School, that was part of the symposium, said she learned that young women should always strive to be the best they can be and not fall into peer pressure from their friends. Thembeka Zondo from uKhozi FM motivated the girls to always strive to be focused on their education and enjoy their youth, by not take part in activities that will disrupt their lives.

Fifteen primary and high schools from within Mandeni Municipality were part of the Symposium. The Symposium empowered the young girls to be confident and respect themselves, so they will be in charge of their own lives, bodies and choices.

Mandeni Municipality recognises that teenage pregnancy is a problem that is plaguing the entire province and is taking necessary measures, to discourage young girls from engaging in sexual activities and substance and drug abuse.

Youth encouraged to read and strive for excellence
Access No.2 Intersection
Making access to Sundumbili Township easier

The Access No.2 Intersection is making access to the Sundumbili Township easier for the residents in and around the township. The intersection has been designed to provide an alternative entry point into Sundumbili and the Central Business District, by linking with the Provincial Road (P459) which connects Mandeni with Isithebe. The Access No.2 project is the first phase of a three-part project to ensure that the CBD becomes more functional by reducing congestion, improving pedestrian safety, protecting the sensitive wetland areas and stimulating greater economic investment in our town.

The intersection has enabled the public to easily access the township via Thokoza Road, while also providing a second alternative entry and exit point from the Mandeni CBD. Such access has eased traffic congestion that was previously experienced at the primary intersection were Thokoza Road, P459 and P415 meet.

The construction of access no. 2 intersection started in March 2013 and completed in December 2014.

Mayor Zulu calls for peace during the Festive Season

Mayor Cllr Sphesihle Zulu of Mandeni Municipality urges all businesses and community members within the municipality to have a safe and peaceful festive season. The Mayor said this during the Transport and Safety Dialogue which took place on the 4th of December 2015, at the iThala Boardroom in kwa-Isithebe Industrial Estate.

The Transport and Safety Dialogue aimed to bring an end to violent incidents which saw bloodshed in the past during the festive season. Mayor Cllr Sphesihle Zulu called on the different stakeholders to be part of discussion on ways to curb violence and bring peace to the Municipality and to sign a pledge of peace and non-violence to ensure a safe holiday season.

The Mayor called on the taxi industry and the South African Police Service to work together, in a collective effort to combat violence and deaths usually experienced during this time of the year. “We must all strive to have a safer festive season, especially as we gather around places of leisure such as Dokodweni Beach and local malls during these holidays. It is our mission to end any sort of violence and to sign our pledge of peace to commit to a safer municipality for all who live in Mandeni,” said Zulu.

Mr Vukan Sithole of the Mandeni Traditional Council said the council is pleased by the municipality’s initiative of bringing peace to Mandeni. “Such meetings help us in fighting social ills of drugs, crime and road accidents which can be avoided,” said Sithole. Ilembe District Municipality’s Social Responsibility Practitioner, Ms Nokwazi Ngcongo said the residents of the municipality should not be held to ransom by the trading hours of local taverns or any other alcohol establishment, “If a local alcohol establishment closes at 10 o’clock at night but the community surrounding it feels it is disruptive, the community has a right to petition to the municipality for the trading hours of the alcohol establishment to close earlier,” she said. Ngcongo also encouraged drivers and pedestrians to be vigilant when going home after a night of consuming alcohol, “It is not only drivers that are dangerous behind the wheel when drunk but intoxicated pedestrians also pose a great risk to themselves and other road users,” she concluded.

The stakeholders which attended the dialogue included Amakhosi from the Mandeni Traditional Council, the Department of Transport, all stakeholders involved in the public transport industry within Mandeni such as SANTACO provincial office and iLembe regional Taxi Council, business owners of alcohol establishments and SAPS.