



# ASIJKI

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JOE GQABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

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South Africa's heritage landscape is turning a new leaf. It is time for the next generation of South Africans to take charge of their identity, culture and heritage. They must own and embrace it.

The new democracy's flag was purposely designed without symbolism, allowing the flag to represent different things to people differently, so every South African can make it personally meaningful. The flag illustrates the diversity of the country and encourages us all to celebrate this diversity. In this edition we take a look at the etiquette around the South African flag.

The District Municipality is currently installing pre-paid water meters in Aliwal North and will roll this project out to the rest of the towns in the District. The District is serious about water conservation and through pre-paid water meters, wishes to assist the residents and businesses to have better control over water usage.

The District Municipality, together with O.R. Tambo and Chris Hani District

Municipalities signed a Memorandum of Agreement earlier this month with the Provincial government of Cordoba in Argentina. This agreement strives to strengthen ties of collaboration between the three District Municipalities and the Argentinian provincial government in agriculture, industrial, educational, cultural, tourism, sport and other social activities.

Traditional Leaders in the Elundini Local Municipality showed their commitment in empowering the youth with skills and tools of trade to improve their futures. An information sharing session was held with cooperatives, government departments, state owned enterprises and private businesses as means to improve continuous support to our youth.

Our district suffered tremendous fires in September. At a special council meeting the District was declared as a Disaster area which will allow for the application for disaster funding in aid of those carrying heavy losses

We hope you enjoy the read!

*M. Gcoya*



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Courtesy  
EC Herald



# VIEW FROM THE DECK

*“Oh captain, my captain  
The Ship is anchored and sound, its voyage closed and done  
.....oh the bleeding drops the red,  
Where on the deck my captain lies  
.....our ship has weathered every rack, the prize sought is won”.*

The poet, Walt Whitman, composed this poem in 1856 to pay his last respect to the 8th President of the United States of America, Abraham Lincoln, following his demise in the hands of an assassin. In this poem, the captain refers to the President and ship to the country of the USA. Walt sought to place emphasis on the sterling role played by President Lincoln in ending the civil war and statutory slavery in America thus bringing about peace.

The context in which the poem has been employed hereunder is different from its original one. The analogy of a ship and captain has been used to underscore the importance of the physical location of the Captain in the course of discharging his or her responsibility during a voyage.

Necessarily, the stature of the office of the Accounting officer requires an astute yet rare strategic acumen to be able to cast eyes beyond the horizon in order to guide the organization, through the belly of the storms to safer waters. For this and other unstated reasons, the leader of an organization is likened to the captain of the ship whose physical location is at the highest point known as the deck.

There are numerous reasons for this positioning of the Captain on the ship but most importantly is to enable him to look and see further ahead than the rest of the crew and everyone else on the ship. In this context, the fundamental responsibility of the Captain is to scan the environment ahead to be able to avert any danger that may imperil the life of the ship and thus ensure its navigational safety.

It is common knowledge that some storms, thanks to the amazing capabilities of the contemporary technology and models, are predictable and as such may successfully be avoided. Other storms are inevitable and impossible to eschew but have to be weathered. The ability of the ship to weather storms cannot be determined by its ability to avoid them but rather by cruising through the heaviest of them and still be able to survive afterwards. The ship is safe from storms at the harbour but it is not designed to remain there; it has to traverse the ocean and, in the process, encounter highseas, heavy winds and extreme weather conditions. For the ship to survive a storm it does not require only the skill of the Captain but also of other team members in the likes of engineers, electricians and even hostesses to calm everyone on the ship. One of the other metaphorical responsibilities of the captain is to inspire hope for a better future (even if this seems impossible) in the face of adversity and gloom.

From the foregoing exposition, it should be fairly obvious as to why the Municipal Manager’s page has been entitled “a view from the deck”.

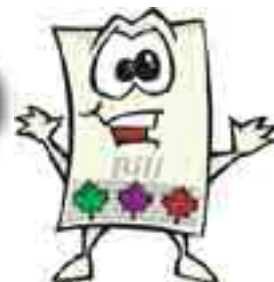
Like the ship described above by the poet, Joe Gqabi District Municipality shall weather every rack and win the prize it seeks. In other words nothing will stop us from pursuing and achieving the vision we sought to achieve.

**TOGETHER MOVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORWARD**

**ASIJKI SIYAPHAMBILI, FORWARD EVER BACKWARD NEVER**

**Z.A. WILLIAMS  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

# INFORMATION ON PRE-PAID WATER METERS



## HOW MUCH DOES A PRE-PAID METER COST?

Joe Gqabi District Municipality subsidises the installation and meters. Meters and installation are free-of-charge.

## WHEN WILL I GET A PRE-PAID WATER METER?



Joe Gqabi District Municipality is currently busy installing pre-paid meters in Aliwal North. Installation will roll out to the rest of the towns in the District after completion in Aliwal North. However, should a resident not prefer to wait, he/she can apply for a meter to be installed immediately by phoning 045-979 3172.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PRE-PAID METERS?

Joe Gqabi District Municipality is serious about conserving water. The pre-paid meters allow consumers to have more control over their water consumption. No more surprises when the bill arrives!



## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY METER BREAKS?



JGDM staff will repair the meter should it malfunction. However, should there be any signs of vandalism, the owner will be responsible for the installation and replacement costs.

## WILL EVERY FLAT/TOWNHOUSE GET A METER?

JGDM will only subsidise one (1) meter per property. Additional meters can be bought for an amount of R2500.00 each to provide for flats, townhouses, etc. Additional plumbing cost will also be the responsibility of the owner.



## WHERE CAN I BUY PRE-PAID WATER ?

Units can be purchased at JGDM water payment offices - Aliwal North offices are currently open over week-ends from 09:00 - 12:00. The District Municipality will have vendor machines in the near future.



# HOW MUNICIPALITIES WORK

## MAYOR

It is the Mayor's task to manage the executive affairs of a Municipality and as such the position has an overarching strategic and political responsibility. The Executive Mayor has executive powers, delegated by the Council and assigned by legislation. He/she is accountable for the strategic direction and performance of the municipality, being assisted by an appointed mayoral committee. Each member of the mayoral committee is responsible for a particular portfolio within the Municipal Council structures. The Executive mayor is also the Municipality's first citizen and represents the Municipality at ceremonial functions.

## CHIEF WHIP

The Chief Whip's role is to maintain cohesion within the governing party and to build relationships with other political parties. Other duties include : making sure that other political parties are properly represented on the various committees of the council and maintaining sound relations between the various political parties and attending to disputes between political parties.

## SPEAKER

The Speaker is the Chairperson of the council - the chief custodian and guardian of the legislative arm of the council. The speaker convenes and presides over council meetings and makes sure the council meets at least every quarter. The Speaker also maintains order during meetings and ensures that such meetings are held according to the council's rules and regulations.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Most councils have a number of council committees that specialise in specific areas. Councillors are then given a chance to dedicate time to specific issues. Committees make recommendations to council.

## MAYORAL COMMITTEE

It is the role of the Mayoral Committee to assist the Mayor in making decisions, proposals and plans to be approved by the council. The committee also assists with the development of an Integrated Development Plan. Councillors are appointed to serve in the Mayoral Committee of the Council to head portfolios

## PROPORTIONAL COUNCILLORS

The proportional representative system also allows parties that are relatively popular but not strong enough to win ward seats to take part in local government.



## COMMUNITY WARD COUNCILLORS (Local Municipalities)

Ward Committees are elected by the community they serve to facilitate effective communication between the council and the community by assisting the ward councillor with consultation and reports back to the community.

**RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
Represents ratepayers in an area by liaising with ward councillors about challenges within that community

## ADMINISTRATION

### MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Responsible for the formation and development of an economical , effective efficient and accountable administration.

### DIRECTORATES

- Community Services
- Corporate Services
- Financial Services
- Technical Services

GENERAL PUBLIC

# TRADITIONAL LEADERS COMMITTED TO SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



The Batlokoa Traditional Council House in Mt Fletcher held an information sharing session with the co-operatives on 08 September 2017. Chief Lehana encouraged government departments, state owned enterprises, the private sector and NGO's to come on board in providing the necessary financial assistance and capacity building and training to members of the primary cooperatives and small, medium and micro businesses in general.

The Department of Trade and Industry in collaboration with the Department of Small Business Development handed over 10 tractors and implements, sewing machines and textiles, brick making machines and cement as well as fencing material to the cooperatives.



Elundini Local Municipality has committed R50 000.00 to Youth Development Organisations whose core business is to provide free education, organise sports and art activities and manage events around the District.

The Joe Gqabi District Municipal Executive Mayor Alderman Z. I. Dumzela who was the guest speaker of the day, complimented the good work that was done by NGOs and government institutions and with future pilot projects soon to embark, he encouraged the youth to take advantage of these opportunities to a maximum extent.

## RAISE THE COLOURS



**Our flag is a heritage to be proud of. It is instantly recognisable and arguably the most important visual symbol of our country.**

In order to ensure that the nation honours and respects what our flag represents, government has provided guidelines for its proper handling and display :

When raising the flag horizontally, the triangle shape should be on the left with the red band at the top. When hung vertically, the "Y" form should point towards the ground and the red band should be to the left of onlookers.

### Respect for the National Flag

The National Flag must at all times be treated with dignity and respect. The Flag must not :-

- touch the floor or the ground;
- be used as a tablecloth or draped in front of a platform;
- be used to cover a statue, plaque, cornerstone, etc. at unveiling or similar ceremonies; or
- be used to start or finish any competition, race or similar event.

# FORGING TIES WITH THE WORLD

**The Joe Gqabi District Municipality alongside its Economic Development Agency and two other District municipalities namely OR Tambo and Chris Hani, participated in an outward mission to Argentina from 22 to 29 September 2017. Also forming part of the delegation were the representatives of the Office of the Premier, Minister of Agriculture, PIC (Public Investment Co-operation), Chief Executive Officers and Board of Directors of various District Municipal Economic Development Agencies.**

The purpose of the mission was to forge and strengthen ties of collaboration between the three District Municipalities and their provincial government; and between their and our municipalities. The activities of the mission involved paying visits to the farms specialising in cattle feedlot, Industries manufacturing Agricultural plant and equipment, municipalities and institutions of higher learning.



Mr . Roberto Hugo Avalle, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Minerals, Dr Sergio Sebastian Busso, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Mr Eduardo Angeloz, Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Walter Robledo; Secretary for Regional Integration and International Relations, Mr Carlos Tomas Mesandri and Dr Mario Buteler, Director of Scientific Innovation and Technology represented the provincial government of Cordoba.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the representatives of the Provincial Government of Cordoba and the three District Municipalities represent an intent by both parties to co-operate on the following activities:

- Agricultural, industrial, educational, cultural, tourism, sport and other social activities
- Training and technical support in agro-livestock, agro- industrial, medical, cultural and sports fields.
- Exchange programmes between the institutions of higher learning;
- Development of scientific research programmes and technology transfer enabling the launching of developmental projects of mutual interest.

Another Memorandum of Understanding with a similar intent was concluded between our District Municipalities, Sacanta and Tanchacha municipalities of Cordoba. The two Argentinian municipalities were represented by their Mayors, his worship Daniel Garnero and His Worship Vera Victor, respectively. The municipalities have agreed to promote actions related to mutual co-operation on the following areas:

- Municipal Management
- Culture and Education
- Sports and recreation
- Industry and Trade
- Economy
- Technology
- Tourism
- Other areas identified as common interest

An action plan to ensure maximum mutual benefit from these agreements will be developed and presented to all key stakeholders for implementation.



Courtesy news24

## VELDFIRES RAGING IN THE BARKLY EAST AREA

**D**evastating fires raged in the Barkly East area. The fire outbreak started on Sunday 10 September 2017. Gushing winds and the extreme dry grass soon turned the veldfires into uncontrollable fires destroying everything in its sight.

The District Municipality activated the fire contingency plan immediately. Through the Working on Fire agreement and the Eastern Cape Umbrella Fire Projection Association , JGDM mobilized R200 000 flying time, 2 additional ground crews , Agric EC flying time for a spotter plane and fuel for the chopper.

On Monday 11 September approximately 150 to 200 ground crew members were assisting farmers to extinguish fires flaring up time and again. The chopper and spotter plane were operational on the following day. A Joint Operations Centre (JOC) was established at the scene, managed by the Director Community Services, Ms Fiona Sephton.

The JGDM Council meeting held on 26 September 2017 declared ward 5 in the Senqu Local Municipality as a local state of disaster.

The National Disaster Act of 2002, section 55 allows the municipality to intervene and institute various control measures, but only to the extent where they are assisting and protecting the public, providing relief to the public, protecting property, preventing or combating disruption or dealing with the destructive and other effects of the disaster.

## JOE GQABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY SUPPORTS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Lawrence Maduna from Lady Grey recently graduated from a small business academy development programme run by University Stellenbosch Business School (USB) in partnership with Joe Gqabi Economic Development Agency (JoGEDA) to assist upcoming business entrepreneurs in the district with developing skills and education as a means of support.



The programme was designed to give previously disadvantaged small business owners the knowledge to strengthen and grow their businesses. 12 Entrepreneurs were selected through a series of processes. They enrolled at the USB for a period of nine months training whereafter graduation of a NQF level 5 followed at a JoGEDA Small , Medium & Macro Enterprise Summit held on the 19th of July 2017 in Aliwal North.

Maduna is the vice-chairperson of the Eastern Cape National Wool Growers Association (NWGA) and looks after the affairs of communal farmers. He made history last year when 10 of his rams were delivered to the Ngcobo community as part of the NWGA's genetic improvement programme; thereby making him the first emerging commercial farmer to breed rams for the ram project.

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# JOE GQABI CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY

**Joe Gqabi District Municipality is committed to improving the lives of its residents. On the 15th of September the District Municipality commemorated International World Environmental Health day in Burgersdorp, Walter Sisulu Local Municipality.**

**T**he purpose of the day was to inform and educate the community about the importance of a healthy environment and to create awareness about the dangers of poor air quality.

60% of illnesses are related to polluted environment including TB, lung cancer and asthma. The most affected are children under the age of five.

Walter Sisulu mayor, Cllr Kweyiya appealed to the community to be responsible and refrain from polluting residential areas. The mayor showed her appreciation towards the District Municipality for hosting the event in the Walter Sisulu Municipality.

Hundreds of school learners took part in the event. Prior to the event JGDM Municipal Health Workers visited schools to educate them on this year's theme "Indoor and Outdoor Air Quality". Learners were requested to create paintings of their environment and means of improving air quality. Forty pupils received certificates for participating in various art forms, depicting the influence of poor air quality on people.



*JGDM Environmental Health Practitioners at the World Environmental Health Day in Burgersdorp*



*Learners through drama demonstrated the impact of poor indoor and outdoor air quality.*



*Art competition winners. The theme was "Indoor and Outdoor Air Quality".*

# NEWS FROM ELUNDINI



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With the term of new council taking shape, Elundini Local Municipality continues to make tremendous strides in closing the social gap between the municipality and the communities. A total of 189 Community Participation Liaison Workers (CPLW) have been employed - one per village - in the 17 wards of Elundini Municipality.

This is a proactive measure and means to fast-track information dissemination to communities and to strengthen community participation. Interaction with communities is now village based! The new approach contributes towards job creation and empowering the community with the necessary information.

The CPLW's are employed through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) under the social sector.

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Elundini Local Municipality introduced the Adopt-a-School project with the focus of improving literacy and numeracy levels at the foundation phase. Working with the Department of Education as a key stakeholder, 10 schools were identified to benefit from this programme.

Tutors were identified and trained by specialists to assist with audio and speech therapy and learners with special needs. The tutors are expected to assist learners with extra classes, homework, ensuring that learners are given daily activities, identify learners with problems and provide assistance during intervention classes and the utilization of work books.

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**Elundini Local Municipality added a feather in its cap by winning the Eastern Cape Provincial leg of Greenest Municipalities competition and claiming R500 000 as first prize.**

21 jobs were created under EPWP beneficiaries to prepare for the competition which included : beautification of parks, solid waste cleaning and installation of weigh pads and solar lightning at landfill sites.



The Greenest Municipality competition is an initiative of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

# UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES GIVEN WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE

The Joe Gqabi District Municipality's Skills Development Unit focuses on equity and skills development. Annually, a pool of undergraduates from the community are absorbed for in-service training in various departments. More than 260 undergraduates have undergone internship programmes at JGDM since the existence of the skills unit.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2017 a group of 21 graduates were contracted for a period of 12 months for internship. This group was selected according to their qualifications and expertise.

The programme is an attempt to equip and develop local professionals as potential employees to reduce high turnover of staff and curb unemployment in the District.



*Graduates were welcomed by the Executive Mayor, Alderman Z.I. Dumzela.*

## jgdm STAFF APPOINTMENTS

**JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER**



Mr. T. Mkhwelanga  
Internal Auditor



Mrs. N. Memela  
Chief Environmental Health Practitioner



Mr. L. Belebese -  
Public Participation Officer - photo not available at time of going to print.

## POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON THE WEATHER

A more favourable weather forecast has been predicted for summer by the South African Weather Services, indicating a normal to slightly above normal rainfall. This is the first time in a number of years that such positive information has been shared and might show a glimmering of hope that the worst of the multi-year drought has passed. South Africa goes through cyclical drought and wet periods, each lasting for about 10 years, however there can be some variances within these 10 year periods. With the onset of climate change it is expected that the depths of the dry periods and the wet periods may increase or the frequency of the oscillation between wet and dry may change. There is currently insufficient information to know the direction of where climate change may take our specific municipal area.

With the positive rainfall forecast, there is also an indication of warmer than normal temperatures and this may increase evaporation and result in more violent thunderstorms, localised flooding and high winds so precautions are still to be taken.

The rain will significantly assist surface water supplies but it will still take a number of years of such rain for there to be adequate replenishment of ground water and for JGDM to get sustainability in the water supply systems. In the interim we need to continue to reduce the demand for water and improve on the efficiency of supply so that water is treated as a real scarce resource.