



Safla and Makhathini are two long-term stalwarts of the public service retiring



2022

Fazal Safla

The Human Resource Support Chief Directorate on behalf of the Branch Corporate Management Services recognises the commitment and dedication of Faizal Safla, who contributed towards government service delivery for more than 30 years. Safla commenced his career in government as an Assistant Personnel Officer in 1986 in the Training section of the House of Delegates.

Through hard work and dedication, he progressed through the ranks to the level of Personnel Officer to the level of Chief Director serving at the Provincial Public Service Training Academy (PPSTA).

Under his management, the PPSTA received the Award FOR **Best Public Service Academy in the Country**. He also received the Minister of Public Service and Administration's award in **Training Excellence Service Medallion – Live Time Achievement**.

Managers in the Provincial Administration and Financial Management Services

(FMS) Training to all finance staff in the Provincial Administration as well as employees in hospitals. He received the Minister of Public Service and Administrations Award for Excellent **Public Service Trainer**.

Safla was transferred to the Chief Directorate Strategic Human Resource management in 2019, where he was assigned to reposition the Chief Directorate: Strategic Human Resource Management and the Implementation of Human Resource Turnaround Strategy in the province.

His leadership and vision made him a great manager, however, his integrity, respect, and compassion made him a great leader. His calm, however, firm temperament helped the Office of the Premier and the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government.

Safla's hard work, immeasurable dedication and invaluable contributions are the hallmark of his work. We wish him well as he retires from the public service.

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Titus Makhathini

Titus Makhathini commenced his career in the Public Service in July 1998 as a Tradesman. Through his dedication and working ethos, Makhathini was promoted through the ranks as a cleaner level 2 in under a year. Makhathini's willingness to learn and assist was recognised and in 2008, he was promoted to Printer Operator. He is renowned as an approachable, down to earth and humble employee, who is always willing to help. He rose through the ranks to the level of an Administrative Assistant.

Makhathini has a thirst for knowledge, and it is no surprise that he was transferred to the Provincial Training Academy (PPSTA). He was responsible for training manuals that were used in the training and development of all employees in the province who attend training and development courses at the PPSTA.

His thirst for knowledge was instrumental to assist him to participate in a year-long Information and Communication Technology programme. Despite the challenges posed by the Covid 19 pandemic, Makhathini's perseverance paid off, and he achieved outstanding results. His hard work and diligence were recognised as he was known to go out of his way to help staff at any level.

A humble and affable employee who rose above any challenge he faced. Makhathini is a hard-working business-minded employee with a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

His love for nature had seen him develop a thriving farm, which he plans to expand further during his retirement. A proud family man, a father of four and a grandfather, who loves his family. He is looking forward to spending quality time with his family. We wish Makhathini well as he leaves the department to retire at the end of this month.





KwaZulu-Natal government restores dignity of citizens by handing over 63 houses as part of the Slums Clearance in Margate

The Masinenge Slum Clearance Project was launched by Human Settlement and Ray Nkonyeni Municipality back in 2013. This project was initiated to provide decent housing to the citizens of the Masinenge Informal Settlements.

After years of surviving ruthless fires and indecency, Premier Sihle Zikalala handed over much-needed 63 houses to beneficiaries at Masinenge, near Margate, in the Ugu District. The project was aimed at uplifting the unsatisfactory living conditions that beneficiaries experienced.



Premier Sihle Zikalala (on the left) and MEC for Human Settlements Ntuthuko Jomo Sibiya (on the right) addressing the media and communities at Masinenge, near Margate.



Premier Sihle Zikalala (on the left) and MEC for Human Settlements Ntuthuko Jomo Sibiya (on the right) addressing the media and communities at Masinenge, near Margate.

Zikalala said: “The significant progress in this project demonstrates that in this sixth democratic administration, we are pushing back the frontiers of poverty. Whenever we celebrate projects such as this, we are grateful for the faith and patience of our people.

Considerable energies and effort were mobilised, and we are pleased to say we are proud of the homes being handed over to beneficiaries. The Masinenge Slums Clearance Project is a flame of optimism. It signifies that hope springs eternal, that we are a nation of courage and fortitude.”



OTP is the top team in the Umgungundlovu Public Administration Soccer League



Office of the Premier football club during the match

The Office of the Premier (Office of the Premier) secured the coveted top position in the first round of Umgungundlovu Public Administration Soccer League (UPASL) 2022 season.

OTP is playing with 13 teams in the UPASL. The second round will resume on the 12 July 2022 after the interdepartmental games.



UPASL 2022 Season Log Table Week 13c (9 June 2022)

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
1	Office of the Premier	13	9	3	1	23	7	16	30
2	City of Choice	13	8	4	1	24	10	14	28
3	Midlands SAPS	13	8	2	3	29	15	14	26
4	Treasury	13	7	4	2	15	8	7	25
5	UMDM	13	7	2	4	28	18	10	23
6	Local Govt	13	5	4	4	13	11	2	19
7	Sweet School	13	5	4	4	19	19	0	19
8	SASSA	13	5	3	5	16	15	1	18
9	UTVET	13	4	4	5	9	15	-6	16
10	Justice	13	3	5	5	19	24	-5	14
11	Arts & Culture	13	4	1	8	9	13	-4	13
12	EDTEA	13	2	2	9	10	27	-17	8
13	Eskom	13	2	1	10	11	28	-17	7
14	Agriculture	13	1	3	9	8	23	-15	6



Remembering our colleague Cynthia Nokuthula Nomaswazi Ntontozi Ntshangase



The passing away of Cynthia Ntshangase shocked many people. Cynthia worked for the Department of Health, Benedictine Hospital in Nongoma from 2005 until 2015. She then joined the Office of the Premier as a Transport Officer: Fleet Management Unit in 2015. She also served NEHAWU as a Secretariat for several years.

Cynthia was born in Durban on 07 October 1974. She completed her matriculation at Hluzingqondo High School in 1993. She obtained her National Diploma: Transportation Management at the then ML Sultan Technikon.

She is survived by two children, one grandchild, mother, three sisters and four brothers.

May your soul rest in eternal peace Mgazi, Sobethu, Masiphula!



Zikalala briefs the community of Ugu district on the plan to tackle the water service crisis

About 63% of residents of Ugu District receive water from the local municipal area. The district's population is estimated to double to reach 1,2 million people in 2050. This was highlighted at the engagement with communities led by Minister of Water and Sanitation Senzo Mchunu, who addressed the water service crisis. Mchunu called for efficiency and urgency that took into consideration the fact that there were thousands of lives affected by the water service crisis.

As a follow up, Premier Sihle Zikalala hosted an Imbizo at Ugu Sport and Leisure on 28 June to report back to the communities on solutions to the water crisis.

Zikalala introduced the Five-Point Plan and commitments to the water crisis. He was accompanied by Director-General

Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize, MEC for Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs Sipho Hlomuka, MEC for Economic Development and Environmental Affairs Ravi Pillay and MEC for Health Nomagugu Simelane.

The Five-Point Plan covers the immediate interventions of mechanical infrastructure refurbishment at Bhobhoyi Water Treatment Works, Mthavuna Water Treatment Works as well as a linking the pipeline to the Umzimkhulu Off-Channel Storage Dam to immediately improve the efficiency of the existing infrastructure.

Upgrade of uMzimkhulu storage dam will be increased to be above 70%-80% and protecting the Bhobhoyi treatment works from vandalism. The upgrade of Eskom power at the Mthavuna Water Treatment Works which is scheduled to be completed in June 2022.

Water infrastructure gets a huge investment boost from the KwaZulu-Natal government

The refurbishment of mechanical, electrical and ancillary works at St. Helen's Rock Pump station will be funded through Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Massification Grant funding. This is scheduled to be completed at the end of this month. Implementation of Springs and Boreholes at Umdoni, Umzumbe and Umuziwabantu Local municipalities.

Water rationing schedule is implemented to address the outcry of intermittent water supply in Umzinto, Gandinaghar, Farm Isonti, Mistake Farm, Amandawe, KwaCele, Dududu and Amahlongwa.

All stakeholders have been alerted.

In the medium-term, the Raw Water Transfer system from Weza River to Harding Dam at Umuziwabantu Local Municipality is implemented.

It was started in February this year and scheduled to be completed by October this year. At Umgeni Water, there is construction of Phase 2B of the South Coast Pipeline from Kelso to Malangeni and Umdoni, which will relief the demand from strained Umzinto Water Treatment Works.

The upgrading of the KwaLembe Water Treatment Works began in March this year to be completed in June 2024. This will cover the abstraction point and construction of a new Water Treatment Works.

The bulk upgrade from Bhobhoyi Water Treatment Works to Marburg Command Reservoirs was scheduled to be completed by September this year.

The bulk upgrade from KwaJali to Bazini, Ingele, Bhudlu would be completed by the end of this year.

Zikalala highlighted major interventions from his plan that included Cwabeni Off-Channel Storage Dam; the Cwabeni Channel Storage. The construction will commence in February 2024 and be completed in 2026. However, the R1,8 billion St Helen's

Weir and Abstraction works will be operational in 2024.

It will start in August this year and completed in 2025.

Upgrading of Mhlabashane Water Treatment Works, the Mhlabatshana 2 upgrade.

The Mhlabatshana Bulk Water Scheme will deliver 12 mega-litres per day of raw water from the abstraction works to pump-station in the Umzimkhulu River.

Water Treatment Plant upgrade from 4 mega-litres per day to 12 mega-litres per day through the duplication of various modules and is expected to be ready in June 2028. This project includes the extensions of the South Coast pipelines from Malangen to Mthwalume and Hibberdene; the Implementation of the Lower-Umkomaas Dam project and the upgrading of Vulamehlo Water Treatment Works.

Zikalala said that budgets were reviewed to prioritise water service provision in the Ugu district. The Inter-Ministerial Committee was established to ensure accountability and to monitor progress and perform oversight on all interventions that addresses the water crisis. The Inter-Ministerial Committee will be supported by a Technical Task team that meets weekly as part of the War Room and reports bi-weekly to Council.



Premier Sihle Zikalala emphasise that through coordinated and prioritised effort will all stakeholders the water crisis will be resolved.



FAKE OFFICIALS/AGENTS TARGETING GEPF MEMBERS

The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) has become aware of individuals falsely posing as agents or officials of the Government Employees Pension Fund who are charging a fee to assist members, pensioners and beneficiaries to claim outstanding funds.

The public and especially members, pensioners and beneficiaries should note that the GEPF deals directly with its clients and does not charge for its services nor does it endorse agents, companies or any third party individuals to act on its behalf.

Anyone who requests payment for rendering GEPF services is committing fraud and the public is urged to report such individuals or companies to the South African Police Service.

The GEPF would, therefore, like to make its members, pensioners, beneficiaries and their families aware of the following:

- The GEPF services are FREE
- No one is allowed to ask for a fee to assist GEPF current and former members, pensioners, beneficiaries and their families with respect to any GEPF provided services.
- Do not share your personal information such identity document number and bank account details.

For more information call the GEPF on 0800 117 669 / or email: enquiries@gepf.co.za or visit a GEPF office near you.

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