

Operation aims to refine district and municipal service delivery

MUSA MNYANDU

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Peggy Nkonyeni, who is the District Champion MEC for the iLembe District, has ushered in a new era of hope for the largely rural iLembe District.

On Thursday, October 10 Nkonyeni led a high-level government delegation, comprising of the five mayors of the iLembe family of municipalities, to Maphumulo to launch Operation Khawuleza, the national government's latest invention aimed at fast-tracking service delivery at a district and municipal level. Loosely translated, *Khawuleza* is a Xhosa word for "speed up".

To facilitate better delivery of basic services across the iLembe District, Nkonyeni used the occasion to hand over yellow plant equipment to the district to be utilised by the five municipalities to better the lives of the people.

The equipment consisted of one TLB, one grader, two rollers, two honey-sucker trucks, two water tankers, and one refuse truck.

Addressing a capacity crowd at Sabuyaze Sports Ground in Maphumulo, Nkonyeni noted that government leaders could not continue to urge people to vote for them while government was seen to be dawdling on delivering essential services. She said it was against this backdrop that President Cyril Ramaphosa had directed government leaders at all levels to adopt

a new approach towards service delivery. This, Nkonyeni said, would be further amplified by the president this week when he officially launches the New District Development Model.

"While there are various government interventions that are aimed at [relieving] the plight of our people, people continue to flounder

in abject poverty and are beset by lack of employment, inequality, poor roads infrastructure, and lack of potable water.

"Today's gesture is a practical demonstration that government is serious about changing the people's lives (for the better)," stated Nkonyeni.

iLembe District Mayor Siduduzo Gumede pointed out that the district was suffering from an acutely inequitable allocation of government funding dating back decades. He said the largely urban municipalities of KwaDukuza and Mandeni had benefited from the lion's

share of government's infrastructure development grants, with the rural areas of Maphumulo and Ndwedwe being virtually neglected.

"What people expect from government is speedy service delivery. They are tired of promises. In Maphumulo, for example, we are still facing a huge backlog in terms of water supply," Gumede indicated.

The elated host mayor, Councillor Zibuyisile Khuzwayo-Dlamini, said launching Operation Khawuleza in Maphumulo had been the most prudent decision as the area was the least developed in the iLembe District

"To facilitate better delivery of basic services across the iLembe District, MEC Nkonyeni used the [launch of Operation Khawuleza] to hand over yellow plant equipment to the district to be utilised... to better the lives of the people."



PHOTO: MUSA MNYANDU

Ndwedwe Mayor Nkosinathi Chili, Maphumulo Mayor Zibuyisile Khuzwayo-Dlamini, KwaDukuza Speaker Phumlile Zulu, iLembe District Mayor Siduduzo Gumede, Mandeni Mayor Thabani Mdlalose, and MEC Peggy Nkonyeni at the launch event.