

MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All media
Attention : News Editors & Journalists
Date : 24 October 2016



uMGUNGUNDOVU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY INTRODUCED

Local Government plays crucial role regarding economic development, as projects take place and the impact is most profoundly demonstrated. However, municipalities are burdened with capacity constraints. In responding to bridging the gap between private and Local Government a resolution in September 2012 was taken by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Cabinet to establish Development Agencies. The establishment of the agencies was strongly recommended throughout the KZN Province as they are:

- drivers of regional economic development;
- promote and develop economic potential by building opportunities and competitive strengths;
- special purpose vehicles to manage and implement development projects;
- leverage Public and Private resources for development opportunities which offer economic potential

In response to further elevate the lives of our people uMgungundlovu District Municipality has re-established the uMgungundlovu Economic Development Agency. Today the District Mayor, Cllr Thobekile Maphumulo met with the new Board of Directors of its new entity. The District's Agency will focus within the broader framework of the Local Economic Development mandate of the municipality that also incorporates the LED Unit's functions within the municipality. The Agency and the LED Unit works in partnership to achieve the socio-economic development objectives of the municipality.

The new Board of Directors include:

- Advocate Indira Goberdhan
- Dr Mngqobi E. Ngidi
- Dr Zethu N. Qunta
- Mr Comfort Ngidi
- Mr Robert Haswell
- Mr Vela N. Mcobothi
- Ms Zinhle D. Sokhela

At the inaugural meeting, Mr Comfort Ngidi was elected as the Chairperson, and Vice-Chairperson is Ms Zinhle Sokhela. The Board members have expertise in agriculture, Public service and Local Government Investment, Finance, Economics, Legal Services and Business Management.

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