



CITY OF
uMHLATHUZE
VISION INTO ACTION

uMhlathuze Wami

The official newsletter of the
City of uMhlathuze **April 2014**

City celebrates 20 Years of Freedom



On Sunday, 27 April 2014 we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of that very special day in 1994 when voters made their mark at the polls in the country's first ever democratic elections.

The City of uMhlathuze is excited to join the rest of the country in celebrating this significant milestone because the City has made great progress in the past 20 years in terms of service delivery and improving the lives of its citizens and has the potential to achieve even more going forward.

Speaking at the launch of the Province's 20 Years of Freedom celebrations, Premier Senzo Mchunu said: "We need to emphasize that these celebrations belong to all South Africans, irrespective of the political affiliation, race, colour, creed, sexual orientation, religion or cultural origin.

"It therefore becomes the duty of all South Africans, no matter what their political and economic backgrounds, to work together towards a common objective – that of nation building. We all need to take ownership of our freedom and fight for our common destiny."

He added: "Compatriots, 20 years into our democracy South Africa, especially the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, has taken great strides in unshackling our people from the yokes of oppression. Millions of houses have been built for compatriots who had never had proper roofs over their heads before. Millions of compatriots who previously had to travel long distances to access water now have clean potable water in their own yards.

"Millions who had no proper sanitation facilities now have decent toilets. And millions of compatriots who depended on candles, paraffin, wood and coal for energy now have access to affordable electricity.

"Today indigent children have access to education in schools where they do not have to pay fees. Road upgrades and bridges have been built in areas previously hard to access, making it easier for children who previously had to skip school on rainy days to be able to attend school even in inclement weather.

"Indeed, we have come a long way from the days when people had to travel long distances to access health care – most communities, especially rural communities, now have clinics within walking distance.

"Free antiretroviral treatment is now available for all; as a result health challenges such as mother-to-child transmission of the dreaded HIV and Aids virus has been drastically reduced, for example. Yet challenges still exist. As a country and province we still face the scourge of crime. Today we are sad to witness a spike in crimes against the most vulnerable members of our society – women and children.

"In line with the theme for this year's State of the Province Address, 'Moving forward with speed, ensuring a better quality of life for all,' we extend an invitation to all the people of this province to work with government build on the unity that we have achieved over the years of struggle and selfless dedication by many ordinary men and women," he said.

"Let us hold each other's hands and embrace this freedom, reconciliation, acceptance and respect for all communities.

Respect for human rights must be the new culture of our new South African nation.

"Let no one take away your right to be free and enjoy the fruit of this democracy. Let us work hard together to create this positive future for our children," he concluded.

In line with the milestones in democracy, all South Africans, especially the youth who will be voting for the first time, are called to go out in their numbers to cast their votes on 7 May 2014. It is an important day for all South Africans to look forward to particularly in a period in which we are celebrating 20 years of freedom.

Measures have been put in place to ensure a safe and secure election and all Home Affairs offices throughout the country will be open from 7am on Election Day to enable people to collect their identity books.

CITY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Clean Audit - 2012/13
- Most Credible IDP recipient – 2012/13
- Blue Drop recipient – 2012/13

ILambu LeNkululeko Ledlula EMhlathuze

Imigubho yokuqeda iminyaka engamashumi amabili yenkululeko yezwe ibiholwa ngokukhanyiswa kweLambu leNkululeko njengoba belihamba lonke leli laKwaZulu-Natal.

Ekuqaleni kuka-April leliLambu leNkululeko lemukelwa eMhlathuze. Lakhanyiswa nguNdunankulu uSenzo Mchunu eRichards Bay ngenkathi kuvulwa ngokomthetho izakhiwo zeMakether eTaxi City nangenkathi kunesidlo esikhethekile eRichards Bay Hotel ngokuhlwa kwalolosuku.

ILambu leNkululeko selibe wuphawu lwemigubho yaseKZN njengoba livakashela izifunda ezihlukene ezifundazweni, libonakalisa inqubekelaphambili eseyifeziwe libe lilungiselela imiphakathi ukuba igubhe usuku lokuzalwa lweminyaka engamashumi amabili lwentando yeningi ngomhlaka 27 April 2014.

Kululuhambo, injongo wukuhlanganisa imiphakathi, ukugqugqezela umoya wokuziqhenya kuZwelonke nokutshengisa konke okuhle osekufezwe yilelo nalelo Dolobha nesifunda eNingizimu Afrika kuleminyaka engama-20 eyedlule.

ILambu leNkululeko lihambe ezindaweni ezahlukeni esiFundeni soThungulu kubandakanya iNdawo kaMandela kwaMthethwa, ngaphandle kwaseMbonambi, lapho uMongameli wangaphambilini uNelson Mandela abambela khona umhlangano wakhe wokuqala eKZN. Imiphakathi yalapha yahlengana yanikeza ubufakazi bokuthi izimpilo zayo seziguquke kanjani emva kweminyaka engama 20 yenkululeko.

Umlayezo onzulu kaNdunankulu kwakuwukuthi uHulumeni uzinikele ngokuphelele ukwenzeni ngcono izimpilo zabantu.

E: Celebrations to mark the twentieth anniversary of the country's democracy have been led by the lighting of the Freedom Flame as it travels the length and breadth of the KwaZulu-Natal.



UNdunankulu uSenzo Mchunu ngenkathi kuvulwa ngokusemthethweni izakhiwo zeMakethe eRichards Bay Taxi City lapho akhanyisa khona iLambu leNkululeko.



Ababecula iculo lesizwe ngemuva kokukhanyiswa kweLambu leNkululeko (kusukela kwesobunxele) yiMeya yaseMhlathuze u-Elphas Mbatha, uNdunankulu uSenzo Mchunu, iMeya yasoThungulu uThembeka Mchunu, yiPhini leMeya yaseMhlathuze uVera Gumbi kanye neLungu lePhalamende uCeliwe Madlopha.

Heritage monument to be erected at Richards Bay Civic Centre

Council has given permission to the Sivananda World Peace and Community Development Foundation to erect a heritage monument on a portion of land in front of the Richards Bay Civic Centre complex.

The intention is to construct a historic monument that depicts nation building and the rich heritage of the area. The following plaques are proposed to be placed on the site:

- This history of the Zulu monarch/King Shaka/King Cetshwayo and the Zulu nation.
- Bust of Nelson Mandela
- Bust of Mahatma Gandhi
- History of the democratic South Africa
- History of John Dunn
- History of the boers in Richards Bay
- History of the Indians
- History of Inkosi Albert Luthuli
- Peace Pillar
- Sayings of great leaders on the struggle during apartheid.

The Foundation has already constructed a Sivananda Peace Pillar at the Empangeni Library, a plaque at the Brackenham Library, in honour of the Indian community, and a monument in eSikhaleni.

From the desk of the Speaker, Mvuseni Mnqayi



The first 20 years of democracy were about laying the foundation for a prosperous and dignified future.

The first 20 years of democracy laid the perfect foundation for the building of a truly democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa, one where all citizens benefit equally from the fruits of democracy and enjoy equal citizenship regardless of the colour of their skin.

South Africa comes from a dark history of apartheid and without dwelling much on this, let us first and foremost thank the luminaries who sacrificed their comfort, families, indeed life and limb in order that you and I can be free. Since the democratic breakthrough of 1994, South Africa has made tremendous strides towards alleviating the plight of the people who were oppressed systematically through an unjust illegal and draconian system called apartheid.

When the current government took over, the first task was to finalise and oversee the process of drafting the constitution which has been hailed as the most progressive in the world and has had to repeal dozens of unjust laws that were meant to oppress and divide us as a nation.

We have put in place policies and laws that make governance transparent and accountable; we have encouraged a free circulation of ideas through the media and an active citizenry. Those who were born in the late 70s and 80s will bear testimony that our idea of government was that of a "big man" sitting in Pretoria, but ever since this government took over we have seen a radical shift from this aloof, detached and unaccountable government to a more responsive and people driven government.

The City of uMhlathuze

The City of uMhlathuze came about as a result of the amalgamation of what was called the Empangeni borough and the Richards Bay borough including the surrounding townships of eSikhaleni, Vulindlela, Ngwelezane, eNseleni and Felixton. The biggest challenge however, was that for the first time we had to deliver services to the Traditional areas under the control of Amakhosi, which were areas that had not been serviced before.

From the above, it is clear that historically the city of uMhlathuze previously prioritised the boroughs in their budgeting processes, while the townships only received crumbs of this, with the rural areas getting nothing at all. Ever since we took over governance of this city, we have set about changing all of this and have succeeded in ensuring the provision of clean water to almost 90 per cent of our citizens and we are currently rolling out phase two of our rural sanitation programme. We also pride ourselves in that our housing project in Dumisani Makhaye Village is one of the success stories with over 50 000 houses built there, as well as rural housing projects in Kwa Mkhwanazi, Kwa Dube and Madlebe all in progress but at various stages towards completion, while Kwa Bhejane is at its infancy stage.

We are in the process of reviving our infrastructure in order to ensure that it is able to cope with the growing demand, especially in the townships, and to ensure uninterrupted and efficient services.

We are also excited that country-wide the levels of illiteracy are dropping, in 1996, 19, 1 per cent of adults had received no schooling. By 2011 this number decreased to 8, 7 per cent. The rate at which children under 5 years die has dropped from 68 per 1000 births to 41 in 2012. The future of any society depends on its ability to preserve life, to expand its life expectancy rate, reduction of illiteracy levels, providing access to education and the fight against crime.

We would like to urge our citizens, as we approach the Easter holidays, to at all times exercise caution on the roads, do not exceed speed limits, do not drive while under the influence of alcohol, do not over-load your vehicles and ensure that you take time to rest every two hours in order to avoid driver fatigue. Road fatalities have cost this country dearly and therefore all of us must play our part in ensuring that we are safe during these holidays and we wish all those whom will be going to church, a blessed time.

In the coming days we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the birth of our democracy on 27 April 1994. Indeed this is a proud moment in our history, not just because we were able to vote for the first time but because, as this government, we have been able to move South Africa forward.

We can say, without fear of contradiction, that the face of South Africa has changed for the better since 1994 with more people having access to housing, water, sanitation, social grants and other basic services, we have managed to bring back dignity to our people who have endured years of indignity and humiliation. We are the first to admit that there are challenges that still persist but indeed progress has been made and that is why the President in his State of the Nation Address said "we have a good story to tell"

We therefore, once again, wish to urge all South Africans to protect their hard won democracy by coming out in their numbers to vote on 7 May 2014, because indeed freedom has never been free.

State of the City opens dialogue with business

Mayor Elphas Mbatha held “a meeting of minds”, with captains of industry and other economic role players, aimed at creating synergy to ensure that business and local government have a forum through which to express what they expect in order to reposition the City to become an economic powerhouse.

The event was the Mayor’s annual State of the City gala dinner and business dialogue, held at the Protea Hotel Empangeni at the beginning of April, and also provided the Mayor an opportunity to highlight successes and challenges of the past year.

University of Zululand lecturer, Dr Christopher Isike and Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry President, Sizwe Khumalo started the evening with a panel discussion.

Mr Khumalo said that when he arrived in the City some 17 years ago he only planned to stay two to five years. However, he has stayed because the City is “pregnant with opportunities” that need to be “unearthed for the benefit of local business and the community”.

He added that the ZCCI has a good working relationship with the Municipality because the organisation engages in “solutions-based discussions” rather than just complaining. This is important because business is only able to realise opportunities if local government can provide a conducive environment.



Mayor Elphas Mbatha with Dr Christopher Isike (left) of the University of Zululand and Mr Sizwe Khumalo, President of the Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who facilitated business dialogue with the City

According to Mr Khumalo local business and the economy is losing opportunities by not looking at beneficiation of raw materials, such as titanium, especially since the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone exists for such opportunities, offering a dedicated area with specific incentives geared at beneficiation.

Dr Christopher Isike of the University of Zululand’s Department of Political Science and Public Administration spoke of the role of good governance in moving the City of uMhlathuze forward and said more emphasis should be placed on the “human factor” when development planning. He said not enough attention has been given to the quality of people who can make development happen. He told the story of a World Bank President who said even if all the wealth of the world was transferred to Africa the continent would still be poor because it doesn’t have a development mentality.

Dr Isike added: “It’s not enough for people to have money, it all depends on knowledge and packaging. We need to focus on people, not just as engines of development, but on the kind of people, the quality of people. We need to talk to people about changing our mentality, about synchronising our thinking, so that we can be well suited for development so that when the money comes we know what to do with it. We should begin to teach people to be more responsible as citizens.”

In the context of the City of uMhlathuze, he said the Municipality needed accountability, responsibility, transparency, empathy and love. “uMhlathuze has been doing very well compared to other municipality’s in the country but there are practical suggestions that could make it even better.”

In this regard he emphasised the importance of communication “no matter what the situation is”. He said communities don’t only want to hear about what has been achieved but they also want to hear about what hasn’t been done and the challenges that are faced. He said this would make politicians appear more human and people would appreciate and respect them more for this.

Furthermore he said there should be proactive black consciousness rather than the reactive black consciousness currently found in South Africa. “Black consciousness should be around thinking about doing the right thing to prove wrong those who think that the black man is incapable and can do nothing right,” he said.

He added that the City “should look to partner more with civil society, with everyone who truly wants to see the Municipality progress. They may not be from the places we expect them to come from but there are civil society groups who can think differently. The government can never do everything and must partner with the relevant community stakeholder partners to bring development closer and faster to the people.”

Izakhiwo Zemakhethe Ezivuselelwe eTaxi City Zivulelwa Ukusebenza

UMsebenzi wesigaba sokuqala walezo ezintathu ezimayelana nokuvuselelwa nokwakhiwa kwezakhiwo zemakhethe ezikhumulweni zezokuthutha endaweni yaseMhlathuze wavulwa nguNdunankulu wakwaKwaZulu-Natal uSenzo Mchunu, iMeya yasoThungulu uThembeka Mchunu Kanye neMeya yaseMhlathuze u-Elphas Mbatha.

Amapulani amabizini alezizakhiwo zemakhethe ezikhumulweni zamatekisi eRichards Bay nasEmpangeni ethulwa anikezwa uMnyango wezokuBusa ngokuBambisana neziNdaba zoMdabu ukuze uwabukeze ngonyaka wezimali ka 2011/12. Lemisebenzi ezigabantathu yemkelwa kwasekuthi uMasipala waseMhlathuze wemukela uxhaso-mali olungama R7 wezigidi ukwenza lomsebenzi.

Kuleso nalesosigaba somsebenzi kulezi ezintathu kuzokwakhiwa izakhiwo ezingama 100 eRichards Bay Taxi City; eRenke A Empangeni kanye neRenke B Empangeni ngokufanayo.

Izindleko zesigaba sokuqala somsebenzi zazingama R2 ezigidi kanti kwakuzosizakala abahwebi abayi 100 abakhangisa ngempahla yabo kubagibeli abedlula endaweni yaseTaxi City.

Njengoba uMkhandlu-Dolobha usuwamukele uMthetho-mgomo wokuHweba okungaBhalisiwe ngokomthetho, abahwebi bazokwenza isivumelwano sokuqasha indawo neDolobha bese bekhokha intela encane. Bayokwazi ukuba basebenzise ugesi wabo abazithengela wona oxhunywe ezindaweni zabo zokuhweba. Lesisikhungo sinendawo yezindlu zangasese zomphakathi kanye nendawo yokuhlala.

Kulindeleke ukuba isigaba sesibili salomsebenzi ozobaRenke A Empangeni uqedwe ekupheleni kukaMay 2014.

E: The first of a three-phase project involving the revamp and construction of market stalls at transport hubs around uMhlathuze was opened by KwaZulu-Natal Premier Senzo Mchunu, uThungulu Mayor Thembeka Mchunu and uMhlathuze Mayor Elphas Mbatha.



Ukusikwa kweribhoni okuwuphawu lokuvulwa ngokusemthethweni kweMakethe yaseRichards Bay Taxi City kwakwumsebenzi wokubambisana kukaNdunankulu uSenzo Mchunu, iMeya yaseMhlathuze u-Elphas Mbatha neMeya yesiFunda sasoThungulu uThembeka Mchunu.

Call Centre and Contact Centre working well

The City's Contact Centre and 24-hour Call Centre, which boasts its own dedicated toll free number **0800 222 827**, have received positive comments from the public for the professional and efficient way in which complaints are being handled.



According to the City's Call Centre and Customer Centre Manager, Nomsa Zulu, the Contact Centre handles walk-ins from the public and has all the necessary forms available for the public to apply for water and electricity connections among others. Should someone want to lodge a complaint the service desk staff will electronically lodge the complaint.

The purpose of the 24-hour Contact Centre is to provide the community with a single telephonic point of contact where they can be assured that their request or complaint will be directed to the correct person in the correct department for a speedy and efficient resolution. It aims to eliminate the need for residents to call councillors and the Municipal Manager to have their problems addressed.

The Call Centre has nine specially trained operators who work in rotation. There are two shifts a day with three operators working per day shift and two at night to ensure that high service levels are maintained at all times. Additional posts have been approved and in time this will be increased to four operators per shift.

Members of the public are encouraged to make use of the toll free number, where they will be given three options to select. Option 1 patches them through to the Traffic Department, Option 2 puts them through to Fire and Rescue Services while Option 3 enables them to log service complaints.

Until the City's Technical Operations Centre becomes operational, all logged calls go directly to the Department or depot for action to be taken. Calls are logged using the computerised Integrated Customer Services Management (ICSM) system. Service delivery complaints are prioritised for effective handling of complaints by the Municipality's limited resources.

The Municipality's normal landline numbers remain in operation, similarly the Traffic and Fire sections still have their own control rooms, but calls to these numbers are subject to Telkom's call rates. Calls to the toll free number, on the other hand, are free of charge and immediately routed directly to these departments.

Good news for commuters -John Ross to be completed by year end

The upgrade of the John Ross Parkway from the N2 to Richards Bay is essentially completed with just a few snags to resolve while the section from Empangeni to the N2 is expected to be completed by September 2014. This comes as particularly good news for commuters travelling between Empangeni and Richards Bay on a regular basis.

Resident Engineer, Drew Wilson, of Royal Haskoning DHV, reported at the John Ross Public Liaison Committee meeting in April that preparations for the rehabilitation of the west-bound carriageway are complete as is the installation of storm water drains. "Side drain construction and milling the road surface should start within the next two weeks," said Wilson. "We will be opening a second lane for west-bound traffic to try and ease congestion but there will still be a bottleneck when traffic reaches the New Tanner Road intersection." Wilson said that a milling machine is on site to start the rehabilitation of the John Ross/Grantham Highway (R102) intersection. Widening of the westbound-carriageway would continue while the rehabilitation of the R102 would start soon with milling done during the day where possible. Night shifts are planned for the milling and rehabilitation of the east-west Main Road to try and limit traffic disruptions. The rehabilitation of the intersection is expected to be completed by the end of May and commuters are asked to be patient and, where possible, to use alternate routes.

Meanwhile all piling for the second bridge has been completed and the bridge is on track for completion around the end of August when layer works and final road surfaces would be applied. "The west piers for the bridge are still to be done and the two abutments are complete. We will start craning the 27 completed pre-cast concrete beams into position around the end of May or beginning of June," said Wilson. He added that with lessons learnt from constructing Bridge A, progress on Bridge B has been considerably faster.

Other points of interest raised at the meeting include the re-naming of the 'New Tanner Road' to 'Mpala Street' and that speed limits along the John Ross Parkway may change from 80km per hour to 100km per hour in certain sections.



West pier construction – pier and abutment wall construction is ongoing.

Richardsbaai Skoon Lugvereniging (RBCAA) maandelikse verslag: Februarie 2014

SO₂ (Swaeldioksied) riglyn oorskrydings

SO₂ word verbind met verskeie negatiewe effekte op die asemhaligstelsels aangesien dit hoogs oplosbaar is en dus maklik deur die slymvliese van die neus en boonste lugweë opgeneem kan word. Daar was geen oorskrydings van die NEMAQA daaglikse gemiddelde standaard (48ppb), NEMAQA uurlikse gemiddelde standaard (134ppb) or die NEMAQA 10 minuut gemiddelde standaard (191ppb) nie.

TRS Reuk drempel oorskrydings

TRS word deur Mondi uitgeskei en word deur die RBSLV by die Sentrale Sports Kompleks in Richardsbaai gemonitor. Die algemeenste gesondheidsklagtes wat verbind word met TRS deeltjies is naarheid en hoofpyn, hoewel elkeen van die komponente sy eie eienskappe en nuwe effekte het. 'n Totaal van 92 oorskrydings is gemeet: Sestien (16) oorskrydings van die WHO 30-minuut H₂S riglyn (5.0ppb) negentien (19) oorskrydings van die OME TRS 10-minuut gesondheidsstandaard (9.3ppb) en sewe-en-vyftig (57) oorskrydings van die RBSLV 10-minuut mikpunt (4.5ppb) is tydens Februarie aangeteken..

Lug kwaliteitsklagtes

Daar is agtien (18) klagtes ontvang gedurende Februarie 2014, in vergeleke met twaalf (12) klagtes aangeteken in Februarie 2013.

Vir meer inligting kontak:

Sandy Camminga (Openbare Beampte)

Tel: 035 -786 0076 Sell: 083 515 2384

Epos: info@rbcaa.co.za Klagtes kan aanlyn aangeteken word by: complaints@rbcaa.co.za Webwerf: www.rbcaa.org.za

E: *The Richards Bay Clean Air Association monthly report for February 2014*



Mayoral comment on the 2014/ 2015 budget



The time has come for Council to present its proposed budget to the community of the City of uMhlathuze. Again I wish to repeat my statement uttered during the draft adjustments budget presentation early this year that this budget is not just a mere crunching of numbers but rather a reflection of the needs and aspirations of our people as per the IDP.

I must say that indeed South Africa has a good story to tell, the work that this government has done over the past 20 years is a scientific track record that the ruling party is indeed capable and willing to change the lives of South African Citizens for the better. It is important to note that South Africa was colonised for over a period of 300 years.

Having suffered after the arrival of Jan Van Riebeeck and his crew in 1653, South Africa was then subjected to a tormenting, brutal system of the Apartheid regime for many years. This system introduced the idea of separate development, where black African's had no right to basic services and a right to vote.

Indigenous Africans were further removed and disposed of their forefathers land through the 1913 land act which saw us becoming visitors in our own land of origin.

Just less than 20 years the ANC led government has been able to ensure that it restore the dignity of its citizens through the provision of social grants to more than 16 million citizens.

This government has over the period of 20 years built houses for more than 3 million households. This Government has indeed ensured that millions of citizens have access to water and sanitation.

This Government has ensured that it build access roads in all communities that were regarded as those that should not be provided with services by the apartheid regime.

The Government led by the ANC has prioritised education as one of its key priorities moving away from the provision of Bantu education.

Local government is at the centre of these interesting developments and this Municipality is indeed at the cold face of service delivery. We have a responsibility to provide our communities with clean water. We need to urgently ensure that those who still do not have access to electricity and sanitation are provided with such services within a reasonable period of time.

That is why non expenditure of our Capital budget will always remain a major cause for concern since it affects the provision of services to the vast majority of our communities. In fact the failure to spend the budget is in simple terms a reversal of the good work that the government is doing. And we shall always strive to ensure that we spend our entire budget as expected as not to waste any. We are confident that this budget will indeed assist in eradicating any backlogs and blockages in the provision of services. We believe this budget will assist Council in ensuring that we swiftly deal with the renovations of outstanding Hostels in eSikhaleni.

We believe the budget will indeed assist in dealing with our dilapidated roads particularly the one leading to eNseleni and Mtubatuba from Richards Bay.

Many of our people are still waiting for their houses, we are fully aware that the construction of low cost houses is underway and we believe that this budget will help the Municipality to reach out to all its citizens in double quick time.

Our communities through the IDP meetings stated clearly what their expectations are, however we must advise that the process of development is a protracted process which cannot be realised overnight.

The people of eSikhaleni have always been raising the issue of the non-availability of the fire station in the township, today we are proud to say through this budgeting process we have now appointed a contractor who should be resuming work very soon.

We believe that through this budget more recreational facilities will be built in order for us to eradicate the scourge of social ills in our society.

Through this budget we believe we will be able to continue with the development of our beach area which will help Council to attract more tourists to the City and ensure that we become a major role player in the tourism and hospitality industry.

Dear Citizens and fellow Councillors we are indeed aware that the communities in our Country are now becoming less impatient with government because they want services and they want them now.

This therefore gives us a responsibility to ensure that we spend their monies sparingly and fight any form of corruption or maladministration that may raise its ugly face. Ours is to serve the people, ours is to work for the realisation of their needs and aspirations.

The proposed 2014/ 2015 budget is R 2,6 billion and R 2,4 billion of this budget is operational budget and the balance is set aside for capital projects. We are confident that this budget will indeed improve the quality of life of our people.

We shall work tirelessly to better the lives of our people being alive to the realities we face. Nelson Mandela once said writing a letter to Fatima Meer on the 1st march 1971 *"I shall stick to our vow; never under any circumstances, to say anything unbecoming of the other. The trouble, of course, is that most successful men are prone to some form of vanity. There comes a stage in their lives when they consider to the public at large about their unique achievements. What a sweet euphemism for self-praise."*

As we work for our people we must always be mindful of these words from our icon. We must ensure that we adhere to proper planning so that we are able to deliver services in a more efficient manner.

We must accept the advice from Madiba that *"Good leaders fully appreciate that the removal of tensions in society, of whatever nature, puts creative thinkers on the centre stage by creating an ideal environment for men and women of vision to influence society. Extremists, on the other hand, thrive on tension and mutual suspicion. Clear thinking and good planning was never their weapon"*

Let us work together in unison to create a better life for all as we celebrate the 20 years of democracy.

Thank you

The Tabled 2014/15 budgets and medium term revenue and expenditure framework of the City of uMhlathuze is hereby published in accordance with the Municipal Finance Management Act, no.56 of 2003, the Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004 and the Local Government Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000. The 2014/15 budgets and MTREF was tabled by the Mayor at a full Council meeting which was held on Wednesday, 27 March 2014. The Tabled 2014/15 budgets and MTREF of the City totals 2,6 billion. This includes a Capital Budget of R259 million and an Operating Budget of R2,4 billion.

The key focus areas for the 2014/15 MTREF are:

- Budget to act as a catalyst to economic growth
- Conservative approach to revenue projections
- Cost containment measures to reduce "nice to haves"
- Prioritise projects and expenditure within existing resources
- Service Charges and Property Rate increases are affordable and very favourable compared to peers.
- Emphasis on additional resources to be spent on Repairs and Maintenance

The budget seeks to strike a balance between the development challenges of rural areas, development initiatives in promoting economic and industrial growth and the need to maintain our existing infrastructure.

Ukwakhiwa Kwesiteshi Sezicishamlilo saseSikhaleni Sekusondele

Umpakathi waseSikhaleni sekuseduze uthole isiteshi sezicishamlilo okungesawo kulandela ukukhishwa kwethenda yesamba sama R12,4 ezigidi inikwa inhlanganisela yabakwaNonjenje Trading nabe-Ubumbano Construction. Isiza sadluliswa ngokusemthethweni ekupheleni kukaMarch. Sekuqalile ukwakha kanti umsebenzi kulindeleke uphele ngoNovember 2015.

Indawo ephansi yalesisakhiwo esiyisitezi izosetshenziswa yilabo abazobe besemsebenzini bese kuthi indawo ephezulu izoba nezindawo ezisamakamelo lapho abasebenzi abazobe bengekho emsebenzini bezophumula khona. Indawo ephansi yehlukaniswe yaba yizingxenywe ezimbili. Ingxenywe eyodwa izoba nezindawo ezintathu zokupaka izingqola zokucima umlilo kanye nayo yonke impahla esetshenziselwa ukucisha umlilo. Enye ingxenywe izosetshenziswa ngabasebenzi abazobe besemsebenzini kanti kuzoba nendlu yokuqapha, ihovisi lomphathi, ihovisi labacishamlilo, indawo yokuphelela encane, indawo yokuzivocavoca kanye nezindlu zangasese. Kuzoba nedamu elizolondoloza amanzi azosetshenziswa uma kunesidumo kanye nesinye isakhiwo esizimele esiyizitezi ezine okuzoba yindawo yokuqeqesha nendlwana yentuthu ezosetshenziswa uma kufundiswa.

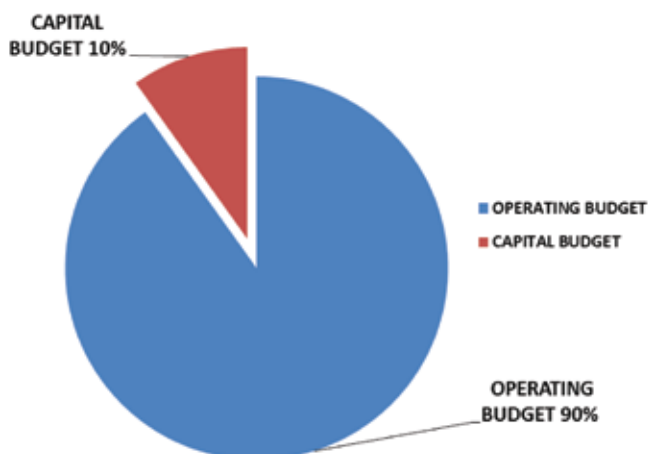
Umpakathi uzokwazi ukusebenzisa lesiteshi ngokusithinta nomaphi kanti kuzoba nendawo okungenwa kuyona eqonde ngqo lapho kupaka khona abasebenzi, kanti lendawo izokwazi ukufaka izimoto eziyi-13.

E: The community of eSikhaleni is one step closer to having their own fire station following the awarding of a tender to a joint venture between Nonjenje Trading and Ubambano Construction in the amount of R12, 4 million.

Overview of the city's MTREF

Description R thousands	Current Year 2013/14	2014/15 Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework		
	Adjusted Budget	Budget Year 2014/15	Budget Year +1 2015/16	Budget Year +2 2016/17
Total Operating Revenue	2 178 852	2 370 559	2 558 251	2 764 176
Total Operating Expenditure	2 173 799	2 363 247	2 535 196	2 739 449
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	5 054	7 311	23 055	24 726
Total Capital Expenditure	467 984	259 438	308 804	320 872

CITY'S TOTAL BUDGET 2014/2015



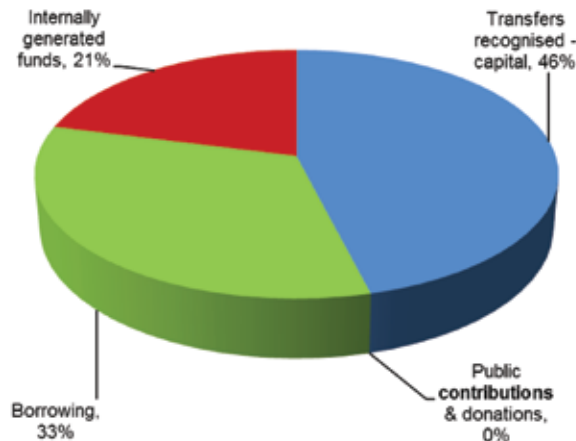
Highlights of the Operating expenditure Budget

- Reticulation for water, sewer and electricity – R 112,0 million
- Road maintenance and road resealing – R 12,3 million
- Pedestrian bridges and walkways – R 2,1 million
- Parks maintenance – R 57,7 million
- Rural roads maintenance – R 25,5 million
- Storm water network ditches and drains – R 4,8 million
- Street lightpoles – R 5,0 million
- Streets and Parking – R 23,3 million
- Traffic signs and road marking – R 1,7 million
- Vehicles – R17,1 million
- Walkways construction – R 5,3 million
- Various swimming pools maintenance – R 1,7 million
- Sports development – R 0,5 million
- Sport fields maintenance – R 1,8 million
- Alien vegetation program – community awareness – R 0,6 million
- Beach maintenance including provision of shark nets – R 3,4 million
- Public conveniences maintenance – R 0,6 million
- Various libraries maintenance – R 0,8 million
- Various municipal halls maintenance – R 2,0 million

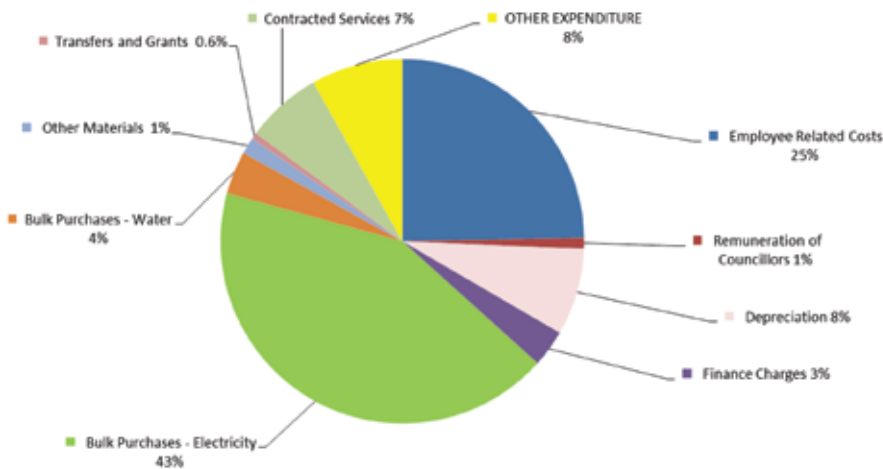
Capital Expenditure

The budget seeks to strike a balance between the development challenges of rural areas, development initiatives in promoting economic and industrial growth and the need to maintain our existing infrastructure.

CAPITAL BUDGET - SOURCE FUNDING



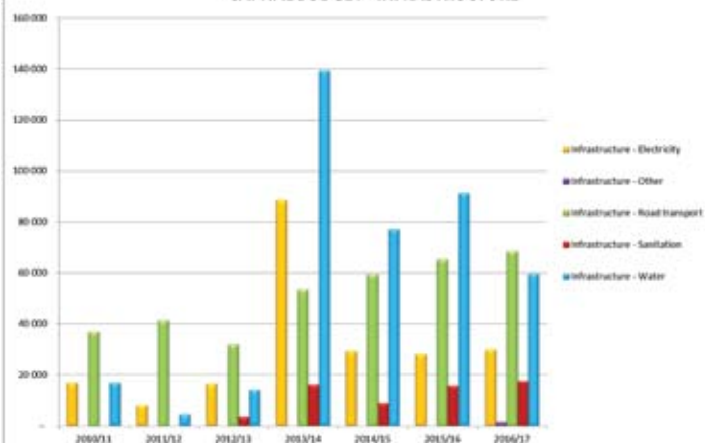
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2014/2015 BY CATEGORY



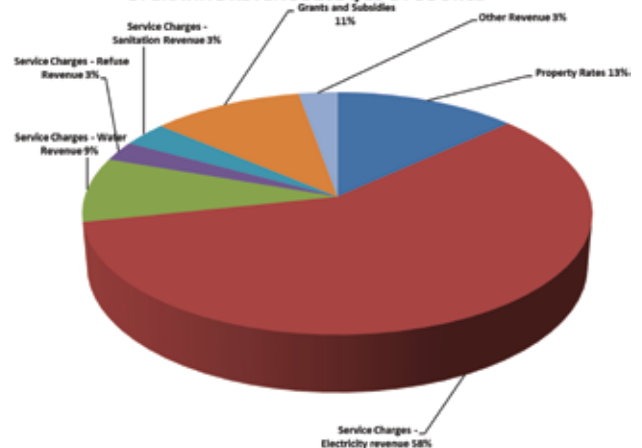
Significant Capital Projects

- Rural Sanitation – R 59 million;
- Water – Rural/Semi-Urban – R29 million;
- Construction of reservoir Empangeni (Hilltop) – R 23,2 million;
- Rural Household Infrastructure Grant – R 4,5 million;
- Upgrade of Empangeni Sewer – R 3,8 million;
- Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant Projects – R 18,8 million;
- eSikhaleni Fire Station – R 9,5 million;
- Aquadene Library – R 4,5 million;
- IT Equipment – R 7,9 million
- Cygnus MV Switchgear – R 14 million;
- Dumisani Makhaye Electrification – R 4,2 million;
- Mzingazi Electrification – R 2,6 million;
- Mandlazini Electrification – R1,3 million;
- John Ross/ Empangeni Main Road – Street lighting – R 2,2 million;
- Refuse Trucks – R 4 million;
- Replacement of vehicles and plant – R 7,8 million;
- Water Tankers – R 1,5 million; and
- Tanner Road rehabilitation – R 5 million;

CAPITAL BUDGET - INFRASTRUCTURE



OPERATING REVENUE 2014/15 BY SOURCE



Budget Related Policies Overview and Amendments

In terms of the MFMA (Municipal Finance Management Act) a municipality must have policies that affect the annual budget or that is affected by the annual budget of the municipality.

1. Indigent Policy

Indigent Support

The key elements within Council's indigent policy are summarised as follows:

- ❖ Universal approach
 - Rates will be determined as a factor of the improved market value of a property. In terms of the Property Rates Act, the first R15 000 of the valuation of residential property is exempt from rates.
 - An additional amount of R95 000 is also exempt from rates, which means that the first R110 000 of all residential properties with a valuation of R400 000 or lower are exempt from paying rates.
 - Other indigent customers not supported through this approach are accommodated within the targeted approach.
- ❖ Targeted approach:
 - Outstanding accounts in respect of debtors, which are found to be indigent, are written off. These debtors are then only entitled to Council's free basic services (6 kl of water and 50 kWh of electricity).
 - Free electricity (50 kWh) allocations in accordance with the Free Basic Electricity Policy.
 - The same base value detailed in the universal approach listed above, will be used to determine rebates in respect of Refuse and Sewerage charges. On this basis, residential property valued at R100 000 or less will be exempted from refuse and sewer charges.
 - Properties valued between R100 001 and R170 000 will receive a rebate of 25% in respect of the sewer and refuse charges.
 - Properties valued at R170 001 and higher will pay the normal tariff.

- Free water of 200 litres per day (6 kilolitres pm) is given to all households consuming 200 liters or less, per day.
- When a consumer uses more than the 200 Liters per day for a month then they pay for all water consumed on a discounted tariff.

2. Poor household relief

Over and above the free services for indigent consumers, relief on a targeted basis is also provided to specific households whose socio-economic circumstances are dire. These cases are registered and managed by dedicated Municipal staff on an on-going basis.

3.1 Property Rates Policy

states the following:

"5. Annual review of rates policy.—
(1) A municipal council must annually review, and if necessary, amend its rates policy. Any amendments to a rates policy must accompany the municipality's annual budget when it is tabled in the council in terms of section 16 (2) of the Municipal Finance Management Act.
(2) Section 3 (3) to (6), read with the necessary changes as the context may require, apply to any amendment of a rates policy. Community participation in amendments to a rates policy must be effected through the municipality's annual budget process in terms of sections 22 and 23 of the Municipal Finance Management Act."

The following changes are proposed for the 2014/2015 financial year:

- Owners of properties that already applied for and received pensioner rebate, will from now on only receive a letter to complete rather than following the complete application process
- Child Headed Households can apply for a 100% rebate and will be evaluated in terms of the criteria set out in the Rates Policy. This is an annual application.
- In order to ensure proper and fair administration of rates shocks by the Municipality, the following be included under the criteria-

"Rates shock will not apply in the case where the rates shock is due to improvement of the property."

A copy of the policy, can be viewed on council's website www.umhlathuze.gov.za

3.2 Credit Control Policy

An approved credit control policy is in operation within the City of uMhlathuze. The policy and the actions taken in terms of the policy are producing positive results despite the current harsh economic climate

3.3 Uniform Tariff Policy

No amendments are proposed to the policy, as all provisions therein remain applicable and relevant.

Draft 2014/15 Property Rates proposed are as follows:

Category	Proposed tariff (from 1 July 2014)	Ratio to Residential Tariff
	c	
Residential Properties	0,00721	1:1
Business, Commercial and Industrial Properties and Mining	0,01515	1:2,1
Agricultural Properties	0,00180	1:0,25
Agricultural Properties (business)	0,01515	1:2
Municipal Departmental	0,00721	1:1
Municipal Other	0,01515	1:2,1
State Owned Properties (residential)	0,00721	1:1
State Owned Properties (All other & administration)	0,00829	1:1,15
Public Service Infrastructure	0,00180	1:0,25
Public Benefit Organisation Properties	0,00180	1:0,25

Proposed increases for the 2014/15 Tariffs

Tariffs for the 2014/15 financial year are increased by the following percentages as per the table below:

SERVICE	PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASE
Property Rates - Business, Commercial, Industrial, Mining etc	18%
Property Rates – All Other properties	12%
Waste Management Residential	8%
Waste Management - Business & Other	8%
Sanitation Residential	8%
Sanitation – Business & Other	8%
Water: Purified Domestic (Scale 0,0 to 0,2kl per day)	5%
Water: Purified Domestic (Scale - consumption above 0,2kl to 0,5kl per day)	6%
Water: Purified Domestic (Scale - consumption above 0,5kl to 1,0kl per day)	7%
Water: Purified Domestic (Scale - consumption above 1,0kl to 2,0kl per day)	20%
Water: Purified Domestic (Scale - consumption above 2,0kl per day)	44%
Water: Purified Business & Other Consumers (Scale - 0,00 to 0,5kl per day)	7%
Water: Purified Business & Other Consumers (Scale - consumption above 0,50kl to 1,0kl per day)	7%
Water: Purified Business & Other Consumers (Scale - consumption above 1,0kl to 2,0kl per day)	10%
Water: Purified Business & Other Consumers (Scale - consumption above 2,0kl per day)	10%
Water: Clarified	10%
General	6,20%
ELECTRICITY:	
Electrification & Rural Subsidy	8,12%
Administration Charges	0,00%
Service Charges	5,00%
Electricity Energy Tariffs-	
Domestic Prepaid (Average)	6 - 8%
Electricity Tariffs - Excluding Levies, Admin, Service Charges and Environmental Levy	
Comflex Prepaid	7,73%
Comflex Conventional (Excluding monthly Service Charge)	7,70%
Demflex Energy	8,00%
Demflex Demand	8,00%
Enerflex Energy 400V	8,07%
Enerflex Demand 400V	8,07%
Enerflex Energy 11 kV	8,07%
Enerflex Demand 11 kV	8,06%
Enerflex Energy 132 kV	8,06%
Enerflex Demand 132 kV	8,09%

The Draft Tariff of Charges for 2014/15 MTREF is available for inspection at all municipal offices and libraries within the City of uMhlathuze as well as the website: www.umhlathuze.gov.za

Draft 2014/15 Tariffs (inclusive of vat) DOMESTIC USER

SERVICE	TARIFF
WATER	
0 – 0,2 kl per day for consumption 200 L and below	Free
0 – 0,2 kl per day for consumption 200 L and above	R1.6313
Above 0,2 to 0,5 kl per day	R3.2937
Above 0,5 to 1 kl per day	R7.4642
Above 1 kl to 2 kl per day	R9.8912
Above 2 kl per day	R12.9012
REFUSE	
Property Valuation 0 - 100 000	Free
Property Valuation 100 001 - 170 000	R73.30
Property Valuation 170 001 - 400 000	R97.73
Property Valuation 400 001 - 600 000	R98.16
Property Valuation 600 001 - 800 000	R98.59
Property Valuation 800 001 – 1 000 000	R99.03
Property Valuation 1 000 001 – 1 500 000	R99.46
Property Valuation 1 500 001 and above	R99.89
SEWAGE	
Developed land per kl	R6.74
Electricity – Inclining Block Tariffs (IBT)	
Block 1 (0-50) kwh	0,7507
Block 2 (51-350) kwh	0,9349
Block 3 (351-600) kwh	1,1986
Block 4 (601-1500) kwh	1,2535
Block 5 > 1500 kwh	1,4596

The above electricity tariffs include the Local Government Levy, Voltage surcharge and the Environmental levy.

AVERAGE ACCOUNT for City of uMhlathuze (Residential Properties)

Service	High		Medium		Low		Indigent	
	Current 13/14 R	Proposed 14/15 R	Current 13/14 R	Proposed 14/15 R	Current 13/14 R	Proposed 14/15 R	Current 13/14 R	Proposed 14/15 R
Water	255.44	299.76	97.72	114.07	46.55	59.41	0.00	0.00
Water Basic	0.00	14.91	0.00	14.91	0.00	14.91	0.00	0.00
Sub-total Water	255.44	314.67	97.72	128.98	46.55	74.32	0.00	0.00
Electricity	1890.90	2037.73	572.66	617.66	298.91	318.01	0.00	0.00
Refuse	92.09	99.46	91.29	98.59	91.29	98.59	0.00	0.00
Sewer	124.80	134.80	124.80	134.8	124.8	134.8	0.00	0.00
Rates	635.95	711.99	421.28	471.65	260.28	291.40	0.00	0.00
Total Account (Excluding VAT)	2999.18	3298.65	1307.75	1451.68	821.83	917.12	0.00	0.00
Vat	330.85	362.13	124.11	137.20	78.62	87.60	0.00	0.00
Total Account (Including VAT)	3330.03	3660.78	1431.86	1588.88	900.45	1004.72	0.00	0.00
Increase in Rand		R330.75		R157.02		R104.27		R0.00

Notes:

Average High Consumption based on the following:

Electricity: 1700 kWh

Water: 45 kl

Rates: Property valued at R1 200 000

Average Medium Consumption based on the following:

Electricity: 500 kWh

Water: 25 kl

Rates: Property valued at R800 000

Average Low Consumption based on the following:

Electricity: 350 kWh

Water: 15 kl

Rates: Property valued at R500 000

Average Indigent based on the following:

Electricity: 50 kWh

Water: 6 kl

Rates: Property valued at R110 000

COMPARE ACCOUNTS WITH THAT OF OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

Town	Rates	Electricity	Water	Refuse	Sewer	Vat	Total
High	1 200 000.00	1 Use as basis 1000m ² improvements R1 200 000, 1700 units electricity and 45 kl water					
Medium	800 000.00	2 Use as basis 300m ² improvements R800 000, 500 units electricity and 25 kl water					
Low	500 000.00	3 Use as basis 300m ² improvements R500 000, 350kw electricity and 15 kl water					
Indigent	110 000.00	4 Use as basis R110 000, 50kw electricity and 6kl water					
uMhlathuze Proposed 2014/15	Rates	Electricity	Water	Refuse	Sewer	Vat	Total
High Value	711.99	2 037.73	314.67	99.46	134.80	362.13	3 660.78
Medium Value	471.65	617.66	128.98	98.59	134.80	137.20	1 588.89
Low	291.40	318.01	74.32	98.59	134.80	87.60	1 004.72
Indigent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
uMhlathuze 2013/14	Rates	Electricity	Water	Refuse	Sewer	Vat	Total
High Value	635.95	1 890.90	255.44	92.09	124.80	330.85	3 330.03
Medium Value	421.28	572.66	97.72	91.29	124.80	124.11	1 431.86
Low	260.28	298.91	46.55	91.29	124.80	78.62	900.44
Indigent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kwadukuza 2013/14	Rates	Electricity	Water	Refuse	Sewer	Vat	Total
High Value	570.00	1 990.70	364.65	123.73	172.25	371.19	3 592.52
Medium Value	362.73	585.50	159.60	123.73	171.10	145.59	1 548.25
Low	207.27	255.15	33.60	123.73	114.29	73.75	807.79
Indigent	4.75	-	-	-	-	-	4.75
Msunduzi 2013/14	Rates	Electricity	Water	Refuse	Sewer	Vat	Total
High Value	1 155.38	1 599.36	622.80	74.47	115.14	337.65	3 904.79
Medium Value	765.38	675.34	346.00	74.47	115.14	169.53	2 145.86
Low	351.00	99.00	207.60	37.24	57.57	56.20	808.60
Indigent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durban 2013/14	Rates	Electricity	Water	Refuse	Sewer	Vat	Total
High Value	878.40	1 835.66	491.10	115.24	108.40	357.68	3 786.48
Medium Value	553.07	539.90	307.25	69.40	74.90	213.67	1 758.19
Low	309.07	377.93	122.90	40.59	22.40	61.88	934.76
Indigent	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-
Cape Town 2013/14	Rates	Electricity	Water	Refuse	Sewer	Vat	Total
High Value	491.67	1 662.00	631.20	90.61	151.62	354.96	3 382.05
Medium Value	295.00	921.30	430.00	69.31	115.31	215.03	2 045.95
Low	147.50	239.10	38.00	69.31	104.93	63.19	662.03
Indigent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newcastle 2013/14	Rates	Electricity	Water	Refuse	Sewer	Vat	Total
High Value	962.81	1 046.35	267.52	93.54	160.08	219.45	2 749.75
Medium Value	637.81	574.55	227.12	93.54	160.08	147.74	1 840.84
Low	394.06	78.39	227.12	93.54	160.08	78.28	1 031.47
Indigent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-