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| IMBIZO FUOCUS WEEK | UTHUNGULU DISTRICT: |
| NATIONAL | President Jacob Zuma lead drought relief Imbizo |
| DATE OF IMBIZO | 03 April 2016 |
| VENUE & AREA | Melmoth Sports Grounds AREA |

HIGHLIGHT OF IMBIZO:

The province of KwaZulu-Natal is one of the provinces that have been worst struck by the current drought that the country is experiencing. A lot of effort had to be put into by the government and partners', water conservation and water demand management, realizing that if that does not happen, there will be harder times in the offing.

A number of the more critically affected municipalities have had to be particularly targeted for relief and the UThungulu District Municipality is one such municipality. The UThungulu DM (UDM) is the Water Services Authority (WSA) for five of the six local municipalities (LMs) in its area of jurisdiction, i.e. Mbonambi LM, Nkandla LM, Ntambanana LM, Umlalazi LM and Mthonjaneni LM. The City of Mhlathuze LM is authorized as a WSA for its local municipal area.

The Uthungulu District Municipality has bulk water infrastructure mainly centred in its small towns (Eshowe, Melmoth, Mtunzini, Nkandla and Mbonambi). It also has over 200 small water supply schemes served by production boreholes and springs covering most of its rural areas. Some of these water sources have dried up as a result of drought. The situation as recognized by Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in partnership with the KZN Provincial Disaster Management Forum necessitated the particular attention being given to the area.

The Minister of the DWS will be visiting the Melmoth area on Sunday 3 April together with the provincial government led by the Premier. The event has been raised to a Presidential event with the confirmation of President Jacob Zuma being available as the event's main invitee and participant. His Excellency President Jacob Zuma addressed over 10 000 people about drought relief programs in Mthonjaneni (Melmoth) where he also gave the community two water storage of 80 000 litres each and 200 wheelbarrow. Mthonjaneni is one of the areas in UThungulu experiencing serious drought where the community rely on water tankers because the dams have dried up.

PHOTO TESTIMONIALS WITH CAPTIONS:



President Jacob Zuma, Premier Senzo Mchunu and MEC Cyril Xaba greeting community during a drought relief campaign in Mthonjaneni.



President Jacob Zuma addressed more than ten thousand people in Melmoth at the launch of a disaster relief fund programme for the drought affecting the country.



Community members waiting for a chance to interact with the President, Premier, MEC and Mayors.



President Zuma delivered water tankers and and water wheelbarrows (water on wheels) to the community of Mthonjaneni (Melmoth) in uThungulu district KZN today to alleviate the serious drought conditions. Mrs Landiwe Bhengu “I’m very much delighted to have such a gift from President Zuma himself as an old lady. This will assist us at home as I can’t carry a bucket at my own.”



Ms Nomalanga Magwaza "I'm happy that our government thought of us in our difficulty period as we receive these wheel barrow tanker which will make our lives more easier when fetching water."



Ms Thembekile Ndlovu "Thank you my President for your leadership and your entire government in attempt to assist us without taking into account our political affiliation."