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UMZIMVUBU SCOOPS GREENEST AWARD



MEC Mvoko and Umzimvubu Mayor Councillor
Zukiswa Ndevu

Umzimvubu Local Municipality was the biggest winner during the Greenest Municipality Awards (GMA) hosted in East London last week. The event was a collaborative effort by the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) and our Department. Senqu and Ndlambe local municipalities received the first and second runner-up accolades respectively, writes Ms Siphokazi Nonyukela.

MEC for DEDEAT Mlungisi Mvoko congratulated the participants for making “remarkable progress”

towards the achievement of the objectives of Good Green Deeds (GGD) Campaign.

“The awards acknowledge best practices by local municipalities and encourage best performances in environmental protection,” said MEC Mvoko.

The awards were measured in fourteen (14) indicators, including waste and water management; energy efficiency and conservation, landscaping, tree planting and beautification, public participation and community empowerment.



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“The winners and participants ensured that our Province maintain an environment that is protected for future generations. I applaud all participants for their efforts of keeping our communities and South Africa green and clean,” he added.

The scale and scope of the campaign has to grow towards the improvement of greening initiatives, waste management practices and socio-economic upliftment of our communities.

Speaking on behalf of the MEC for COGTA, the Deputy Director General (DDG) for Developmental Local Government (DLG) Mr Vuyo Mlokothe (*right*) reminded attendees that the GGD Campaign was launched in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 08 March 2019.



“At the launch the President called on all of us, in particular, local government, business and civil society to join hands in cleaning up South Africa. The call is a collective responsibility where all of us must embark on a paradigm shift and be agents of change towards environmental activism,” he said.

DDG Mlokothe said a significant lesson could be learnt from the Rwandan Approach through what they call “*UMuganda*”, meaning coming together in common purpose. The *UMuganda* Approach dedicates the last Saturday, monthly, all able-bodied persons in Kigali, between the ages of 18 and 65 to tidy up the city. As a result, he said, Rwandans have become less inclined to litter in their daily lives, thus a culture and pride of conserving the city’s clean image has been instilled through the collective contribution.

“I therefore stand before you today to reignite the GGD banner under the theme “**Clean Spaces for Healthy Living.**” I call on government leadership, especially Mayors to dedicate the last Friday of every month to mobilise social actors on cleaning activities and environmental awareness. Let us create a new environmental conscious culture so that the cleanest municipalities in South Africa are to be found in the Province of the Legends,” he said.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

“How wonderful it is that nobody need to wait a single moment before starting to Improve the World,” Anne Frank.