To all Media
For immediate invitation
06 February 2023

Indwe shutdown

Emalahleni Local Municipality last weekend was shocked to learn that there will be shutdown on Monday, 06 February 2023. We were disappointed to learn about these developments as we are engaging with leaders of the community of Indwe on daily basis.

Since the 23rd of December 2022 a number of engagements with the community of Indwe were held in order to address matters as were listed on their petition.
On the 23rd of January 2023 we held engagements with the community in front of the municipal offices at Indwe. And the process followed was beyond attending only to the issues on the petition as members of the community were given an opportunity to engage municipal leadership led by the mayor.

After the agreement was taken to come back and engage leaders of the community of Indwe, the leadership was taken to all service delivery areas to see for themselves what the protesters were talking about in terms of the state of affairs.

On Thursday, 02 of February 2023 the office of the Mayor, Cllr Nontombizanele Koni contacted one of the leaders of Indwe Community and they agree that the day as was agreed upon last time is not proper as it falls within a period when social grants will be paid out to beneficiaries and they then come up with a new date, which is the 10th of February 2023.

When messages and invitations were circulating on social media platforms, we reach out to the leaders trying to understand what the reasons for the shutdown are while our date of the 10th February 2023 is upcoming. And no clear response was given.

On Thursday, 02 February 2023 we were at Indwe on an oversight exercise in ensuring that there is progress on what the people raised with us. And we can safely say there is work in progress.

As government we are commitment to offer services to the people and as such will never take people for granted, when there are issues which need to be discussed we are open to engagements.

The protest action unfortunately disturbed a number of services as businesses were forced to close, schools, movement within and outside town, healthcare services and many more community services.

We appeal to protesters to respect the rights of those who are not protesting and to ensure that no infrastructure is destroyed during the protest action as destroying infrastructure we take back the gains in the form of services as were offered to the people using for example roads and other services that are normally affected when there is a protest action.

Working with Chris Hani District Municipality we will keep on engaging the community of Indwe and ensure that we reach an amicable solution with speed so as to restore peace and order.

We would like to apologize to businesses and individuals for the inconvenience caused by the protest action. And promise that we will work around the clock in managing the situation.

For more information contact Emalahleni Local Municipality, Spokesperson Mr Luthando Nqumkana at 087 808 0905/072 188 5201 or email nqumkanal@emalahlenilm.gov.za

Issued by the office of the Municipal Manager, Communications Unit, Emalahleni Local Municipality.