



Media Release
For Immediate Release
31 January 2026

Strong stakeholder collaboration and community participation mark the commemoration of World Wetlands Day.

Greytown, uMvoti- UMvoti Municipality, alongside the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs, co-hosted a successful [#WorldWetlandsDay](#) event marked by strong stakeholder collaboration and community participation under the theme: 'Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge- Celebrating Cultural Heritage'.

The day's proceedings commenced with a high-level stakeholder briefing, where environmental scientists from KZN EDTEA outlined the programme and elaborated in great detail the fundamental role of stakeholders in preserving wetlands, as well as the environment's critical role in socioeconomic development.

Among stakeholders present were Amakhosi and transitional councils' representatives from uMvoti and the greater uMzinyathi district.

The briefing was followed by tree-planting at Quarme Primary School and the inspection of the nearby wetland. The educational tour and presentation to beaming learners, educators, and the community highlighted the significant role of wetlands. Notably was the role that wetlands play in mitigating flooding as well as being a source of life for other wildlife.

The tour was followed by a cleanup campaign in Nhlalakahle Township, aimed at raising awareness of illegal dumping and its devastating effects on the environment, wildlife, and humans, particularly children and the elderly.

The day wrapped up with a formal program at the town hall attended by hundreds of community members, where speakers emphasized the vital role of strong stakeholder collaboration in promoting environmental education, awareness, and community involvement.

Speaking during the opening remarks of the formal program, Mayor GZ Malembe expressed gratitude to the MEC and all stakeholders for coming together and ensuring uMvoti benefits from the department's [#WorldWetlandsDay](#) commemoration program, which he remarked "has opened our eyes and minds to the wealth of the environment".

The mayor urged the community to play their part in environmental conservation.

ENDS

Issued by uMvoti Municipality Communications Unit.

General and media interview-related enquiries may be addressed to:

Miss Samukele Ngubane, Manager: Communication

Tel:033 413 9249/ Cell: 060 364 2867/ Email: samukele.ngubane@umvoti.gov.za