

NGQUSHWA MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHES WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Judy Ngoloyi

PEDDIE: Hundreds of women from various walks of life gathered at Ngqushwa Municipal Hall on 29 August 2007 to witness the official launch of Women's Caucus.

Addressing the meeting Ngqushwa Municipal Mayor Nomvuyo Nxawe said the abuse of women and children is something that should be fought by every South African citizen.

The speaker of Ngqushwa municipality Cllr Victor Mlondleni said their municipality is the first local municipality under Amathole District Municipality to launch this kind of initiative. Mlondleni said the Women's Caucus needs the commitment of the entire community.

“We want to set an example to other municipalities so that they can learn one or two things from us. The main aim of establishing the caucus is that we want to put women in the mainstream of our development,” added Mlondleni.

He emphasized that the caucus must be able to reach those women that are in the deep rural areas of the municipality. “Ngqushwa Women's Caucus is faced with the responsibility of interacting with rural women in an effort of changing their lives for the better,” said Mlondleni.

He said people must move away from saying they are historically disadvantaged and begin to take a leading role in the development of their communities.

The Ngqushwa Women's Caucus consists of the following members:

- Convenor – Cllr Manzeka Joyi**
- Health - Cllr Nomajamani Coto**
- Youth and Children – Clrr Thuliswa Camagu**

- **Disability** - **CDW member Nontuthuzelo Likhwe**
- **Elderly** - **Cllr Nomandla Ndabazonke**

Following are Ex-Officio members of Ngqushwa Women's Caucus:

- **Nomonde Cowa - SPU Officer**
- **Cllr Victor Moyeni – Ngqushwa Speaker**
- **Cllr Thuliswa Dyani - Portfolio Head of Public Participation of Ngqushwa Municipality**

Chairperson of ADM Women's caucus Cllr Tabita Ndleleni told the newly elected members that the caucus is a result of the role played by people like Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Nonyamezelo Mxenge and many unsung heroines. She urged them to embrace the new structure. END