

# **VUWANI SOCIAL COHESION COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE**

### **Introduction and Background**

- The Demarcation Board issued a declaration on a new municipality
- The new municipality incorporates Malamulele area and Vuwani
- Malamulele experienced violent service delivery protests – demanding to opt out of the Thulamela Municipality (head-quartered in Thohoyandou) to have own municipality
- There is a suggestion by people in the area the new municipality is a compromise by the Demarcation Board to appease Malamulele
- Vuwani community is refusing to be incorporated into the new municipality and wants the status quo to remain i.e. remain part of Makhado Local Municipality
- Traditional leaders in the area have also joined in and are sympathetic to the cause
- There is an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) appointed by the President to assist in the mediation effort and bring the matter to normality
- The IMC is supported by a Technical IMC – (which the DAC)
- The area is facing unrest – schools burnt, furniture destroyed
- Out of the 102 schools in the area, there is no schooling in over 70 of the schools
- Level of intimidation on the teachers and principals very high
- The DAC has a mandate in terms of coordination of outcome 14 (social cohesion and nation building)
- The Minister directed the Department to initiate community conversations in the area as a way to bridge the divisions

## The Methodological Approach

- Methodologically speaking, the community conversations will take a more critical and phenomenological posture
- Conversations will be cognisant of the fact that oppressive structures are a lived daily reality for the majority of our people
- The conversations will interrogate and mediate these constraining elements
- Levers for social cohesion are located from within the communities [not so much solutions from without]
- However, the conversations provide a dialogic platforms leading to finding of these levers (opportunities for cohesion)
- Employ the “sustain dialogue” method – continuing with the dialogue – assisting tools and leveraging on existing structures and resources to sustain the dialogue
- “Sustain dialogue” entails a process for improving relationships within communities that may largely be strained along, among others, racial, ethnic, gender, class, religious, and cultural lines

## Proposed Schedule

DATE & TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	Speaker(s)	STRATEGIC PARTNER
20 June 2016 10H00	Social Cohesion Youth Dialogue	Makhado Municipality	Thulani Tshefuta	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality South African Youth Council
21 June 2016 10H00	Social Cohesion Youth Dialogue	Thulamela Municipality	Mr Yusuf Abramjee	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality South African Youth Council

22 June 2016 10H00	Social Cohesion Youth Dialogue	Malamulele	Mr Tshepo Mashiane/ Loyiso Bala	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality South African Youth Council
23 June 2016 10H00	Social Cohesion and Business	Malamulele	Sandile Zungu	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality
24 June 2016 10H00	Social Cohesion and Business	Thulamela Municipality	Sandile Zungu	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality
25 June 2016 10H00	Social Cohesion and Business	Makhado Municipality	Sandile Zungu	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality
27 June 2016 10H00	Intergenerational Social Cohesion Dialogue	Makhado Municipality	Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality
28 June 2016 10H00	Intergenerational Social Cohesion Dialogue	Thulamela Municipality	Dr Brigalia Bam	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality
29 June 2016 10H00	Intergenerational Social Cohesion Dialogue	Malamulele	Judge Yvonne Mokgoro	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality

30 June 2016 10H00	Social Cohesion Community Conversation/ Stakeholder Engagements	Thulamela and Makhado Municipality	Sandile Zungu Thulani Tshefuta Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa Minister of Arts and Culture	Arts and Culture (Province) Vhembe District Municipality Thulamela Municipality Makhado Municipality
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