

ABOUT US

The eZasegagasini Metro is the official eThekweni Municipality publication through which ratepayers and residents are kept informed about news, entertainment and perspectives in the greater Durban region.

It is also a forum for readers' views.

It hits the streets fortnightly on a Friday, with 450 000 copies distributed throughout the region.

To contact us:

eZasegagasini Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4000
Newsroom: 311 2290/
81/84 Fax: 306 4603
Communications: 311 2279
angamuthuv@durban.gov.za
eThekweni Info Centre
0800 331 011 (toll-free)
sizakala@durban.gov.za

STAFF

Editor: Vasantha Angamuthu

News Editor:

Thrusha Naidoo

Sub-editor:

Matthew Hattingh

Writers: Siyabonga

Maphumulo, Ken Mchunu, Nomusa Makhutle, Sohana Singh, Alan Cooper, Gabi Khumalo, Derrick Dlamini, Finola Quarsingh, Samantha Moodley

Photographer:

Bonga Msimang

Translations:

Themba Nyathikazi

CONTACTS

Municipal queries:

0800 331 011

Electricity faults:

080 131 3111

Electricity Tampering:

080 131 3111

Street Light Faults:

080 131 3111

Robot Faults:

0800 333 467

Emergencies:

031 361 0000

Ambulance: 101 77

Revenue Billing:

031 328 1200

Metro Police

Central: 031 300 3333

Chatsworth: 031 402 0680

Inner West: 031 709 0808

North: 031 561 1297

Outer West: 031 767 1222

South: 031 910 7321

Regional offices

Central: 031 311 1111

North: 031 561 1101

South: 031 311 5844

Umkomaas: 031 311 5407

Outer West: 031 311 2717

Inner West: 031 311 6286

Overgrown verges

and trees:

Central: 031 205 1418

Inner West: 031 311 6916

North: 031 566 3712

Outer West: 031 767 3908

South: 031 311 5733

Stormwater; burst mains;

sewer faults; traffic signals:

080 131 3013

Disaster Management:

031 306 4074

Animal Nuisance and

Abandoned Vehicles:

031 311 2814

Durban Solid Waste (DSW):

031 311 8804

Ties forged with New Orleans

DERRICK DLAMINI, SOHANA SINGH and PHUMLA BHODOZA

THE city recently played host to an influential business delegation from New Orleans, who had come to develop business relationships with the business community here.

And the city's Business Support Unit organised a networking seminar – now a yearly event – to let the visitors meet representatives of about 50 local businesses from various sectors.

The initiative aimed at providing a platform to foster links between businesses from both countries.

Sectors represented by the delegation included construction, tourism, hospitality and pharmaceuticals.

In his welcoming address, Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo, hailed the initiative and said it helped sustain the growth of local businesses and the city's economy.

"There is a special bond between Durban and New Orleans. We are a city attracting international events from music and art to entertainment, so we need to gear up for such events," he said.

The head of the New Orleans delegation, Ernest Kelly, praised the municipality's effort and vision in forging international linkages for its business community.

"This city has an amazing track record of attracting foreign investment, and interventions such as the relationship between New

Orleans and Durban should continue to play a pivotal role in sustaining our joint noble objectives.

"For the past two years, this programme has been instrumental in helping communities understand the potential of attracting foreign investment capital to South Africa, especially in Durban.

"It has helped in exposing business ideas of these communities to international markets," said Kelly.

New Orleans Economic Development Chief of Staff, Lisa Poncedeleon said: "We need to build strong partnerships in tourism and bridge the two cities. This would bring greater economic generation for Durban. We can be a catalyst for this city to reach its full potential," she said.

Philip Sithole, Acting Head of the Business Support Unit, said: "Seeing the success of this initiative, we intend taking it a step further. We'd devise a programme whereby local businesses are offered an opportunity to travel to New Orleans to explore opportunities."

Representing the franchising sector, Karlton Kirksey, appealed to eThekweni businesses to venture into the franchising sector.

"There are vast opportunities in this field and it allows for endless innovations. Therefore, I urge the business community in South Africa, especially in Durban, to use these linkages. They are destined to put them on an international footing with global markets," he said.



DIPLOMATIC TIES: Mayor Obed Mlaba meets Belgian Ambassador Jan Mutton Picture: THEMBA KHUMALO

Belgium backs city

GABI KHUMALO

A ROYAL Belgian Embassy delegation recently met Mayor Obed Mlaba to discuss co-operation between Belgium and the municipality.

Belgian Ambassador Jan Mutton said his country wanted to work with the city to foster economic develop-

ment as well as to support skills training.

Mlaba said among the issues discussed during the meeting were the shortage of skills and how Belgium could assist with training.

"Belgium can bring mentoring to make sure delivery is enhanced," said Mlaba.

KhumaloPG@durban.gov.za

IN THE SWING OF THINGS



MAYOR Obed Mlaba takes time off to practise his stroke ahead of a mayoral golf day this week. With the mayor are Sabelo Meyiwa, Nkosinathi Cele and Thabiso Mkhize of Othuba Primary School in Ntshanga. The tournament has been organised by the municipality and Absa Bank to raise funds for needy families in the city. Absa has pledged R200 000 towards the event Picture: SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

Crossmoor: MF lashed

SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

THE Minority Front has come under fire from ANC councillors serving on the Executive Committee for "somersaulting on Council's stance on land invasions".

This was after MF Exco councillor Jayraj Singh suggested the people who had recently invaded Council land in Crossmoor, Chatsworth, were justified in having done so.

The municipality's Land Invasion Unit later demolished the shacks that had been erected in the area.

Singh said the invaders had lived in the nearby Bottlebrush settlement for nearly a decade but had not benefited from the Council's relocation programme.

He described the Council's actions as "inhuman" and of being tantamount to that of the apartheid regime.

ANC Councillor and Chairman of the Council's Housing Committee, Nigel Gumede, suggested councillors like Singh had spurred the invaders on.

"Some councillors should be investigated for their role(s) in the invasions," he said.

Gumede said some marchers who had come to the City Hall a while back had admitted it was Singh who had told them "to go to the ANC to demand housing".

"He should have also told them that invasions were illegal in terms of Council's land invasion policy.

Mayor Obed Mlaba said the municipality was the only local government tier in the country to provide social housing.

He said the MF should make arguments on humanitarian grounds "on behalf of the people who fell

victim to capitalistic landlords who charged R2 000 a month rent in return for squalid living conditions in the city centre".

The DA said while there was a dire need for more housing, the laws of the land had to be respected.

"It is important as Council we send out a clear message on the matter. Our democracy is pinned on property rights and the rule of law and as political parties we cannot send mixed messages on invasions," said DA caucus leader Cllr John Steenhuisen.

The Council had earmarked the land in Crossmoor for low cost dwellings.

A full Council meeting recently resolved to build more low cost and middle income houses.

MaphumuloSiy@durban.gov.za

Linkage business boost

SOHANA SINGH

SMALL businesses are being encouraged to register for the Business Linkage Programme, taking place at the Small Business Fair from 28 to 30 September at the Durban Exhibition Centre.

The programme will give them a foot in the door of corporates in eThekweni and surrounding areas.

Philip Sithole, Acting Head of the Business Support Unit, said: "With companies such as Engen, Eskom, Standard Bank, John Williams Buyers, National Ports Authority and Airports Company South Africa, confirming their commitment to the programme, this will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of the fair.

"The programme is being

offered free of charge to SMMEs."

He warned though that small, medium and micro enterprises need to consider whether their businesses are at a level where they will be able to deliver to the demands of big business before participating in this process.

The programme, managed by Black Business Link, aims to match large companies and the services they need to SMMEs which can provide those services.

The programme will introduce emerging entrepreneurs to the procurement officials of large companies and parastatals, who will be able to register them on the company's database.

Big corporate businesses provide Black Business Link

with a list of services or products they require from SMMEs.

They also provide a list of requirements that SMMEs must meet in order to supply them with those services.

Black Business Link will then match suitable SMMEs who have registered for the linkage programme to the corporate company requiring the services and arrange for them to meet and be interviewed at the Small Business Fair.

SMMEs are urged to register for this process by contacting Black Business Link on 031 467 5090 or e-mail info@blackbusinesslink.co.za. Only those registered for the programme will be introduced to larger companies.

SinghSohana@durban.gov.za