

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

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Buthelezi, Mlaba row over names

SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

THE Mayor of eThekweni, Obed Mlaba, has dismissed accusations levelled against him by IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi that he (Mlaba) is leading a drive to have his name removed from Umlazi's Mangosuthu Technikon.

Writing in the IFP's online newsletter, Buthelezi said: "The present mayor of Durban, in his capacity as a member of the Mangosuthu Technikon Board of Governors, has repeatedly made proposals that my name be removed so the technikon is not named after me."

He said he was also aware of a proposal to rename the Mangosuthu Highway after ANC stalwart Moses Mabhida.

But the mayor this week distanced himself from this saying the renaming of streets and buildings in eThekweni was a process handled by the council's non-racism and non-sexism subcommittee.

He said that as the mayor of eThekweni and chairman of the technikon's council, his role was to ensure development occurred at the

institution and along the highway corridor.

"The only mandate I was given was at a Congress of South African Students conference that as the mayor and chairman of the technikon, I see to the extension of student residences and that is exactly what we are busy with," said Mlaba.

He said that he was "not going to dignify comments that were baseless."

"Anybody including him (Buthelezi) has a right to submit proposals for renamings and that is council's policy, what we don't have is a policy based on love and hate, as is suggested," he said.

In the newsletter, Buthelezi said: "If removing my name gives the ruling party the satisfaction of gloating about being at the helm, they must go ahead and enjoy themselves."

He also warned that the renaming of Mangosuthu Highway could re-open old wounds between the IFP and ANC, referring to the internecine violence between the parties which left 20 000 people dead in KZN.

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Deeper democracy

VERNON MCHUNU

A TOTAL of 1 000 ward committee members will be sworn in tomorrow in a further effort to entrench democracy.

Mayor Obed Mlaba, Speaker James Nxumalo, City Manager Michael Sutcliffe and representatives from the local government ministry will be present at the launch of the committees and inauguration of members – a ceremony not open to the general public.

The city will later publicly

introduce the members to their constituencies.

Desmond Myeza, Manager of the Speaker's Office, said the ward committee elections had been held (over nearly six months) with few hurdles and objections.

Each 10-member committee gives citizens a more direct say in local affairs than ever before.

Ward committees will give citizens an additional platform to influence decision making on issues affecting their areas.

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South Durban business fair

The closing date to register for the South Durban Basin Small Business Fair has been extended to 25 April.

The fair provides a platform for small, medium and micro enterprises to showcase their

businesses and network to expand their clientele.

To book your space call PMG Events on 031 309 3767.

Applications forms can also be found at www.durban.gov.za. – Metro Reporter

City to train home owners

GUGU BLOSE

RECIPIENTS of government housing subsidies now get training in home ownership.

The municipality's Housing Unit provides the training to encourage responsible home ownership.

The unit's Mzi Magubane said: "We go to a community where the residents have

been identified for a housing project.

"We educate people on looking after their houses, keeping documentation, such as deeds, and why it is important to note the laws around selling your house."

The unit's Mpume Qwabe said: "We cover different topics every time we go out to the community, so people are



SOUPER IDEA: A soup kitchen was officially opened in Tafelkop this week. From right, in the foreground, are Mpho Mthembu, City Health's Social Development Manager, Emmanuel Mgobhozi, of Social Development, Ward 100 Cllr Tana Magwaza, and ward 95 Cllr Senzo Shange, Nomakula Mrubata, of Feedback Food Redistributors, and two ward 100 committee members. Picture: KEN MCHUNU

Feeding scheme started

KEN MCHUNU

A WEEKLY soup kitchen was opened this week at the clinic in Tafelkop, Umbumbulu, to the south of eThekweni.

Tana Magwaza, the ward councillor for Umbumbulu, said the soup kitchen would help child-run households and residents in poor health.

Nomakula Mrubata, of Feedback Food Redistributors, said they would collect unspoilt food from hotels, university kitchens, and restaurants and give it to needy residents at the soup kitchen.

Feedback is a non-profit

organisation that redistributes food to deserving families and communities across the country.

The local councillor would recommend which residents needed help, after reviewing their welfare status.

Mrubata said Feedback's main job was to meet beneficiaries' urgent food needs, but they would also encourage them to become self-sufficient through vegetable gardening.

Magwaza said the high rate of unemployment had made it hard for some residents to afford even a single meal a day. Some, he said, suffered the severe side

effects of taking medication on an empty stomach.

Mpho Mthembu, City Health's Social Development Manager, said the city would continue to identify hungry communities that could not feed themselves.

She encouraged gardening among residents.

Soup kitchens are an initiative of the City's Health Departments Social Development Unit, the Community Participation Unit and Feedback.

Other areas that have benefited from this initiative include Ntuzuma, Mpumalanga and Tongaat.

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Rates inspections continue

THEMBA NYATHIKAZI

THE municipality has been busy revaluing all properties across eThekweni for rating purposes, in line with new laws.

And, as of next week, for quality control purposes and to ensure a high standard of valuation, data collectors will be revisiting a selected sample of properties.

This exercise will include measuring external buildings of the sample properties in order to validate existing data.

This programme will continue until the end of September.

This exercise as a whole is

being carried out in terms of the Municipal Property Rates Act, which regulates the powers of municipalities to value and rate immovable property within its boundaries.

The Act states that revaluations should happen at least once in every four years and the valuation must reflect the market value of the entire property.

Market value is determined by comparisons with what similar properties in the neighbourhood have sold for.

Rates revaluation data collectors, armed with clipboards and yellow bibs, have become a common sight in eThekweni.

They can be identified as follows:

□ They will be wearing a navy blue cap bearing the word "Evaluations";

□ They will be wearing a fluorescent bib bearing the municipality's logo and the words "Data Collector" on the front, and "Evaluations" on the rear.

They will be carrying an official ID card and a laminated letter of designation from the municipality.

If in doubt, check the data collection form relates to your property or call the contractor's call centre, 031 328 1133, to confirm the identity of the data collector.

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Good prospects

DERRICK DLAMINI

PLANS to develop the skills of the business community in greater Prospecton area are forging ahead.

At a recent meeting hosted by the Prospecton Business Forum, businesses were given the opportunity to network.

Among issues discussed were how businesses can

access grants. Businesses were also coached on how skills development initiatives such as learnerships and apprenticeships can increase profitability and productivity.

The programme is supported by the municipality, Durban Investment Promotion Agency and the Chamber of Commerce.

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