

## ABOUT US

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

## STAFF

**Editor:** Ntsiki Magwaza

**News Editor:**

Thrusha Naidoo

**Sub-editor:**

Matthew Hattingh

**Writers and Photographers:**

Siyabonga Maphumulo, Ken Mchunu, Sohana Singh, Alan Cooper, Derrick Dlamini, Samantha Moodley, Gugu Blose, Mack Makhathini, Sane Shandu, Themba Nyathikazi, Themba Khumalo, Emmanuel Kleinbooi

**Translations:**

Siyabonga Maphumulo, Themba Nyathikazi, Ken Mchunu, Derrick Dlamini, Mack Makhathini

## 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 5573

**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

# New Warwick flyover: Major road closures

GUGU BLOSE

MAJOR road closures will take place from Monday, when work on the R250-million Warwick Triangle Viaduct project picks up pace.

The project aims to solve one of Durban's biggest traffic congestion headaches.

But until work is completed in December 2009, motorists have been warned to expect increased congestion, detours and other disruptions.

The flyover will carry traffic travelling into the city on the Western Freeway directly onto Johannes Nkosi (Alice) Street, bypassing the heavily congested Warwick area.

Although the flyover will be finished just in time for the 2010 Soccer World Cup, the benefits to motorists and pedestrians will extend well beyond 2010, said Roy Gooden, Deputy Head of the City's Road Provision Department.

"The flyover will mean more efficient and safer travel.

"We will be able to significantly reduce traffic congestion and the number of accidents in the area."

Preliminary work began in March, but the scale of the next phase of the development is far larger than what has been seen so far, Gooden warned. "Construction will cause some disruptions and people will have to use alternative routes until work is completed."

Traffic will be re-routed from Old Dutch Road onto Centenary Road, Carlisle Road and Cross Street, before rejoining Johannes Nkosi Street.

"These alternative routes are not cast in stone. We will

monitor the situation regularly and make the necessary adjustments to ensure that disruption to motorists is minimised," said Gooden.

The Engineering Department is liaising with Metro Police to ensure that sufficient personnel are deployed on these routes to assist traffic flow.

Gooden urged motorists to drive carefully and to be patient during the construction period.

"We also appeal to motorists to start thinking of alternative routes and factor the extra travel time into their journeys".

□ Closures will take place between Johannes Nkosi (Alice) Street, Warwick Avenue and Russell Street. Traffic will be diverted along Centenary Road to Carlisle Street and to Johannes Nkosi Street.

The Municipality proposes temporary traffic detours along Centenary Road, Carlisle and Cross streets.

□ Centenary Road will be upgraded to accommodate one additional northbound lane, making a total of four northbound lanes.

□ Carlisle will have three eastbound lanes and one westbound lane.

It will be converted to two eastbound lanes between Cross and Grey streets.

□ Cross Street, currently a one-way northbound, will be converted to a two-way between Carlisle and Johannes Nkosi streets, with two lanes in the southbound direction and one lane in the northbound direction.

blosegugu@durban.gov.za

## Top honours for eThekweni

GUGU BLOSE

THE eThekweni Municipality has scooped top honours again, this time at the Kamoso awards held recently by the KZN Department of Transport. The awards honour departments and municipalities for their commitment to the extended public works programme in the province.

"These awards are held in acknowledgement of the hard work of these departments and municipalities," said MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Bheki Cele.

EThekweni walked away with the award for Best Project Municipality. The criteria for all categories were stringent and municipalities were graded in terms of jobs created,

their branding, the impact on poverty and compliance with training.

"This proves that the majority party is definitely adhering to its mandate of job creation for the jobless and, in doing so, helping to eradicate poverty," Cllr Fawzia Peer said.

In probably the toughest category, between municipalities and government Departments, eThekweni and Ugu tied as second runner up. The Department of Education was the first runner up for their programme of early childhood development in Jozini.

The provincial Department of Transport was the winner with its project in Maphumulo on the D892 route.

blosegugu@durban.gov.za

## BIG CLEAN UP



EThekweni Municipality's City Manager, Mike Sutcliffe (second from right) got down and dirty with East Coast Radio's Travis Bussianh (second from left) in the station's 'Big Clean Up'. Gary Roper of Graffiti Removal Services (left) and Steven Sykes from the Sharks also helped to scrub clean a wall covered with graffiti tags

Picture: MARGARET TILLING

## Imbizo: Mayor takes government to people

SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

A RECENT visit by Mayor Obed Mlaba to Chatsworth was purely "developmental" and had nothing to do with the looming by-election in the area, Council Speaker James Nxumalo said.

Nxumalo was responding to opposition party claims that last weekend's Mayor's imbizo was aimed at enticing the Chatsworth electorate to vote for the ANC ahead of a Ward 73 by-election, rather than addressing the interests of the people.

"The Mayor's Imbizo is about taking government to the people as that is exactly what we are about - a people centred government.

There will be many other Imbizo's of this kind elsewhere in the city. We

chose to begin at Chatsworth because there are a lot of burning issues that had to be discussed.

The Imbizo was attended by some members of the city's Executive Committee and senior administrative officials, including City Manager Michael Sutcliffe. Nxumalo said it sought to explain rates, housing applications and the recently passed city budget.

Chief among the concerns raised by Chatsworth residents at the Imbizo were crime, housing and the dilapidated state of some council owned flats.

Housing Committee Chairperson Nigel Gumede assured two elderly families that their appeals to the Mayor for housing would be given urgent attention.

"We don't care which party you belong to. When it comes to housing allocation we will give you a home, as it is our responsibility to do so without looking at political affiliation," Gumede said.

But the DA was unconvinced, saying the Imbizo had been nothing more than an ANC rally.

EThekweni DA Chief Whip Colin Gaillard said it was suspicious that an imbizo should take place in Ward 73 with a by-election just around the corner.

"It's also created suspicion because our councillors were only informed the day before the imbizo was due to take place, which made it impossible for them to attend," said Gaillard.

MaphumuloSiya@durban.gov.za

## City tackles elder abuse

SANE SHANDU

ETHEKWINI Municipality is tackling abuse of the elderly with a series of educational workshops aimed at empowering older people to stand up for their rights.

"Now is the time for us to stand up and fight for our dignity," Patricia Valentine, chairperson of the eThekweni Pensioners' Forum, told hundreds of older people who packed the Dassenhoek hall in KwaNdengezi recently.

The Justice Department's presentation on the Older Person's Act was well received by participants, who had an opportunity to speak about abuse for the first time and share their experiences with other elderly people.

Sakunthalay Moodley, chairperson of the Marianhill Senior Citizen's Group, said, "We are now empowered. The elderly are now aware that they have rights too".

The event was part of an



THE Municipality is committed to protecting the rights of the elderly. Mr and Mrs Naidoo were present at the recent elderly workshop in Dassenhoek

Picture: SANE SHANDU

ongoing eThekweni Municipality programme aimed at protecting and helping restore the dignity of older people, many of whom have been victims of emotional, psychological, sexual and financial abuse.

Event coordinator Mani

Sirputh, a community health facilitator in the Municipality's Health unit, said the programme was intended to raise awareness of the problem, and to ensure that it was identified early and appropriately managed.

shandusane@durban.gov.za