

## 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

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## Medwood tavern under fire

**SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO**  
From Exco

THE council is looking at taking action against a tavern operating opposite the City Hall for possible violation of its lease agreement.

At a council Executive Committee meeting (Exco) last week, Health, Safety and Social Services Committee Chairperson Nomvuzo Shabalala said the Garden Bistro, in Medwood Gardens, appeared to be in violation of its lease with the municipality. "Besides the noise factor, some people, after consum-

ing liquor relieve themselves on the sidewalks and become generally chaotic," she said.

The tavern is popular with young people, especially on weekends.

During the debate, councillors raised concerns that taverns were contributing to crime in down-town Durban, including muggings.

Shabalala requested City Manager Michael Sutcliffe investigate whether the establishment was operating within the terms of its lease, and present a report to her committee.

Mayor Obed Mlaba said

some taverns could be counted along with other CBD blights such as illegal street traders, who choked pavements by erecting stalls wherever they pleased.

## Progress

Sutcliffe said he would seek guidance from the City's legal department in pursuing the matter as it was likely there could be legal implications.

"Part of the problem we are faced with is that liquor trading licences are sometimes awarded to establishments such as the one

operating from Medwood Gardens."

Opposition parties at Exco applauded the move saying something drastic had to be done about the tavern.

"We would like the progress (of the City Manager's report) to be also brought to Exco," said the DA's Collin Gaillard.

The proliferation of taverns in eThekweni has been raised at two full council meetings recently. And the city has taken a tougher stance on illegal liquor outlets, with Metro Police and the SAPS raiding outlets across the city.

In the most recent blitz, last

week, illegal buildings and taverns in the Point area were targeted by the Metro Police and members of the SAPS.

A number of outlets trading without licences were closed down and liquor was seized.

A Garden Bistro employee, who declined to be named, on Wednesday said the tavern's management was aware that the City was looking into their affairs.

He said it was their policy not to give out management's telephone number and the manager was only available on weekends.

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## Durbs takes gold at municipal games

**THEMBA KHUMALO**

ETHEKWINI took gold at South African Local Government Association/Kwanaloga games, hosted by Ugu District Municipality in Port Shepstone earlier this month.

The metro was named overall winner after dominating in most of the 13 codes at the tournament, taking first place in dance sport, table tennis, golf, athletics, men's netball, women's rugby and women's basketball.

They took silver in netball, swimming, men's basketball, women's soccer, indigenous games and boxing.

The Sports and Recreation Development Department's Khanyisile Khumalo said: "We went to the tournament with high expectations, confident we would again win the tournament.

"There were some upsets, but we still retained the overall trophy.

"It was unfortunate the men's soccer was not completed, as we were certain of a gold medal there too. But the upsets are motivating us to do better."

The city collected 13 medals in all, seven gold and six silvers, as well as trophies.

Eleven municipalities from across the province took part in the three-day event.

Welcoming participants to the tournament, Mayor Obed Mlaba, who also chairs the KZN SALGA games, said: "The games help forge inter-municipal relations and offer a platform for young stars to make a career out of sport."

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**SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO**

IF THE eThekweni council were to hold a vote for the most loquacious councillor, then the IFP's Vela Gumede would easily top the polls.

Gumede's has a love for high-flown language and a grandiose rhetorical style that can bring the house down.

He uses his gift for the gab to full effect when making points at council meetings and is not shy to pepper his pronouncements with Latin.

It's a talent that has won him the admiration of councillors across party political lines, but it has also earned him the nickname, "Fracas".

Whether the subject under



**GIVING IT STICK:** Sanele Zungu of L-section, KwaMashu, lands a blow for team eThekweni, during a stick fighting match against Umgungundlovu District Municipality, during the Indigenous Games, at the recent Salga Games

Picture:  
THEMBA  
KHUMALO

## 'Juju' at soccer match sparks row

**THEMBA KHUMALO**

THE men's soccer game at the Salga/ Kwanaloga games had to be called off after two eThekweni councillors were injured in a "muthi-related" incident.

Bedlam broke out after the eThekweni team was sprayed with urine which was initially suspected to be "juju" muthi.

The first half of the semi-final clash between

Mkhanyakude District Municipality and eThekweni proceeded normally, with eThekweni leading 1-0. At the break the referee was substituted and this prompted a protest by Mkhanyakude officials, who took to the field with cars and chairs.

At this point Zululand District Municipality officials - angry that their own team's semi-final had not played because of a dispute with the

organising committee - entered the fray. According to eThekweni team coach Luthando Ngubane, Zululand officials then sprayed his team with what was alleged to be muthi. At his attempts to intervene, Cllr Lifaso Majola was manhandled.

Cllr Dumisani Ngema came to his rescue and was assaulted with a steel tent peg. He was hit on the elbow, and had to be hospitalised.

Mayor Obed Mlaba said Salga would be investigating. He said despite the unruliness, the tournament had been a success.

Ngubane said: "We are unhappy... These games are meant to be a place for unearthing talent. This is where the likes of Siyabonga Nkosi were discovered.

"Justice must be done; these people must be disciplined."

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## There's a 'Fracas' in council

discussion is street renaming, a proposed increase in hostel rentals or a comment on a notice of motion tabled, Gumede's utterances are seldom without reference to the word "fracas".

Before Gumede even takes to the podium, he's invariably greeted with a chorus of "Fracas!" from the council benches.

"Mr Speaker, Sir, not only is the issue laid before the



**FRACAS:** Cllr Vela Gumede

house not relevant to this platform but it is also a complete fracas," Gumede is wont to say.

No surprise then that Council Speaker James Nxumalo usually affords Gumede an opportunity to have his say, with the preamble: "And next to speak is Mr Fracas."

Uncomplaining, Gumede typically starts (and ends) by flashing a broad smile before elaborating at length on

matters under discussion, never failing to use only the finest vocabulary available in the English lexicon.

On other occasions, when Gumede feels the "Queen's language" alone is not having the desired effect, or simply to display his knowledge of law, he throws in a little Latin.

"The (street renaming) exercise has become a fracas because the ruling party wants to do things *mutatis mutandis*. And to those members of the house whose knowledge of Latin is not on a par with mine, I would

suggest you speak to (DA Councillor) Prof George Devinish, he's the one who taught me law."

Another weapon in Gumede's "charm offensive" arsenal is to employ a slightly vibratory tone of voice and a repetition of words, in the manner of a veteran poet.

"Despite the ostensive wording of the recommendation, I still maintain that it is a fracas, an absolute fracas. Underline fracas, Mr Speaker."

This tactic seems particularly effective on City Manager Michael Sutcliffe who must often battle to contain his mirth.

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