

R3m water project for Amaoti

THEMBA KHUMALO and GUGU BLOSE

"IMPILLO Engcono" is isiZulu for "a better life", and that's exactly what residents of Amaoti, in Inanda will be enjoying thanks to a city water project officially launched last Sunday.

The Impilo Engcono project involves an investment

of about R3-million to supply ground water tanks free of charge to about 1 300 households in the Tanzania and Angola sections of Amaoti.

The groundtanks are piped into a system and are automatically refilled once a day with 200 litres of water.

Already, about 300 homes have been supplied with tanks, and the project should be completed by the end of the year.

The investment also covers the training of caretakers who will ensure each house receives a groundtank; that the system is not vandalised; and that illegal water connections are not made.

Mayor Obed Mlaba said at the launch that the caretakers would educate the community "to ensure the correct and appropriate usage of water".

"People must ensure they use the service in a respectful way," said Mlaba.

A competition was held to come up with a name for the project, and Innocent Mthembu, a pupil from Number 3 Amaoti Combined School, suggested "Impilo Engcono".

He also devised the winning logo.

He won R500 for his efforts and his school received R1 500.

Amaoti Combined School Principal Gugu Maphumulo, said: "We are proud of Innocent and we hope this will motivate other pupils to take part in such competitions."

Ward Councillor Zandile Gumede said: "We will save a lot of money through this project because we were losing a lot of water through illegal connection and leakages."



WIN-WIN: One of the new groundtanks in Amaoti



TOP OF THE POLE: Logan Reddy has been named South Africa's top Firefighter

Picture: SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

Firefighter Reddy for action

SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

THE Acting Station Commander at the Durban Central Station, Logan Reddy, has been named the country's top firefighter.

The honour was recently bestowed on the 29-year-old Chatsworth man by the South African Emergency Services Institute.

Reddy's award includes an

all-expenses paid trip sponsored by German company Weber Hydraulics to Europe where he will attend firefighting courses.

Test

"The final selection was made based on marks earned in a written test and I scored the highest," he said.

But while Reddy, who has

been fighting fires, for the past decade, is excited about the acknowledgment he has received and impending trip, he said even this did not equal the feeling that comes with saving lives.

"As firefighters we merely do what comes naturally which is saving people's lives without really expecting anything in return," he said.

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IN BRIEF

Learn how to make films

ARE you South Africa's next Gavin Hood (the producer of *Tsotsi*)? Do you need a push in the right direction to put your creative talent to good use? Your chance is here!

AFDA, the South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance, will be running a six-week winter boot camp in Durban for budding film makers, from 25 June until 5 August. The course covers cinematography, directing, producing, script writing and sound editing.

For more information contact Rob Pearce on 011 482 8345 or visit www.AFDA.co.za.

Charity calls for blankets

EAST Coast Radio has begun its 2007 Winter Warmth Campaign and the municipality Women's Forum have joined hands to facilitate collections of blankets and cash at municipal offices.

Municipal workers and the public can support this cause by donating a blanket or making a donation of R40 for a new blanket. The closing date for collections is 20 June. For more information, call Priya on 031 311 3225.

High praise for policeman

THE Amanzimtoti anti-crime committee earlier this month presented Metro Police Constable Craig White with a certificate for service beyond the call of duty.

White received the certificate at a march held by the committee to create awareness about fighting crime. About 3 000 people marched 3.5km to Hutchinson Park where they presented a memorandum.

The DA's national spokeswoman on safety and security, Dianne Kohler-Barnard, who presented the certificate, praised White for his selfless efforts.

Supt Hennie Nell, of Metro Police in Isipingo, said: "It makes me proud that I have constables of this calibre in my unit. Craig really deserves this certificate."

A show with real porpoise

MUSICAL splendour will meet nature's best at uShaka's *Music of the Movies: A Dolphin Tribute to the Oscars*, from 28 to 30 June.

Some of the city's best performing talent, including Nothanda Ngubane and *Idol's* finalist Nompumelelo Zondi, will perform alongside a cabaret dancers and star attraction – the Sea World Dolphins. Tickets cost R95 for adults and R65 for children under 12. Book through Computicket.



FULL SCREEN AHEAD: Fikile Dlamini and Doreen Mkhize, of Arrive Co-operative, Business Support Unit Acting Head Philip Sithole, and Thomas Khoza and Neil Cooke of BMW

Picture: DERRICK DLAMINI

Window women win prize

DERRICK DLAMINI

MEMBERS of a thriving co-operative had to fight back their tears when they received a sponsored computer, worth about R5 000, from the BMW Supertech dealership in Rosburgh, last week.

Fikile Dlamini and Doreen Mkhize, of the Arrive Co-operative, had earlier won the computer from the dealership at a recent small business fair at Umlazi Mega City, organised by the city's

Business Support Unit.

The duo manufacture aluminium windows, ceiling boards, partitioning and sliding doors.

An elated Dlamini said the computer couldn't have come at a better time.

"We can now process our business documents and data more conveniently."

"We are extremely grateful to BMW and the unit," she said.

Mkhize said they would use the computer to train and

improve the skills of their seven staff.

Neil Cooke, the BMW Dealer Principal, said their involvement was a way of developing and encouraging entrepreneurship.

The unit said the donation by the dealership, and the support of other big businesses in SMME development, was encouraging.

Recently, KZN Oils pledged R250 000 towards SMME Fairs over a five-year period.

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Small business fair offers big opportunities

DERRICK DLAMINI

MORE than 230 entrepreneurs are preparing to exhibit at the Inanda, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu (Ink) small business fair from 22 to 24 June at the J.L. Dube Stadium.

The fair, will provide small, micro and medium (SMME) entrepreneurs with an opportunity to market their products and services.

The fair, which is an initiative by the city's Business Support Unit, the Ink Area Based Management (ABM), and Vezubuhle

Events, will include workshops on business-related issues.

The fair is the second of a series of council-backed regional SMME fairs held this year, which will culminate with the main fair at the Durban Exhibition Centre in September, where about 300 exhibitors are expected.

Ink ABM Manager Linda Mbonambi said: "We are extending our invitation to all in the business community to participate in our endeavours to empower the small business sector. Our exhibi-

tors play a pivotal role in creating jobs," he said.

Thuli Ngcobo, of Vezubuhle Events, appealed to the public to attend the fair and show support for local entrepreneurs.

The Business Support Unit's Winile Mntungwa said buyers should come to the fair to "see the high-quality products that SMMEs are making – instead of travelling long distances to acquire the same products in faraway places". She also invited aspiring entrepreneurs to take part in the workshops.

Over the years, increasing number of exhibitors have taken part in the fairs where some have struck lucrative business deals.

First-time exhibitor Mduzuzi Ngcobo, of Mdurayza Jewellery Designs, said he can't wait to exhibit.

"It's a massive opportunity for me. I'm looking forward to creating business contacts and deals," he said.

Problems such as a lack of capital and skills limits many small local businesses from expanding, but the fairs hope to address this.

The remaining fairs for the year are as follows:

Rural Fairs:
Mount View Civic Centre, Verulam, on 30 June; Pinetown Civic Centre on 5 July; and Mbumbulu Municipal offices on 7 July.

For more information call 031 266 9937/8

The Main Fair is from 28 to 30 September at the Durban Exhibition Centre.

Registration closes on 30 July. For more information call 0860 266 993

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