

## 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.

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**BUSINESS BOOST: Thamsanqa Fakazi, Chairman of Hlanganani Traders Association, checks out the trading kiosks now being built in Pinetown**

Picture: DERRICK DLAMINI

## Council builds kiosks for Pinetown taxi rank traders

**DERRICK DLAMINI and HLOBISILE MBOKAZI**

INFORMAL traders in Pinetown's bus and taxi rank are getting new, improved trading facilities to let them trade and safely store their goods and equipment after business hours.

This R2.5-million project by the City's Business Support Unit (BSU), involves building a storage facility opposite the new trading shelters. So far 28 trading kiosks have been built, with more planned.

There are hundreds of traders operating from the rank.

The BSU said this would eliminate unsightly informal trading structures near Cambridge Butchery.

Cambridge Butchery donated temporary trading space to the informal traders who had been affected during the building of the kiosks.

The kiosks are expected to make the area more

appealing and attractive to buyers and reduce congestion on the busy pavements.

BSU's Thulani Nzama said: "The traders have been looking forward to the project since consultations were done in the last financial year.

"The kiosks are being built behind the Cambridge Butchery and it will help traders do business in a more professional manner.

### Safer

"Their goods would be stored in a much safer environment," he said.

Thamsanqa Fakazi, Chairman of Hlanganani Traders Association, which represents traders at the rank, thanked the council for improving conditions.

"These facilities have proved a revelation. However, we are continuing to engage with the Business Support Unit to provide more shelters.

"We have about 260 traders

with permits in Pinetown who are still desperately in need of improved shelters," said Fakazi.

However, Margaret Hadebe, who trades chickens near the Pinetown rank, was worried the new facilities had no space for her live chickens.

"I just hope this could be considered. I'm not the only trader who sells chickens. But we are grateful for this positive attempt by the Business Support and everyone else involved," said Hadebe.

Patrick Mncube, of the BSU, said: "We are working with all parties concerned, and they have been supportive and helpful.

"This project has also created job opportunities for builders," he said.

More trading shelters are planned for the Weber Industrial area, near Hammarsdale, to improve informal trading conditions.

This project will cost about R700 000.

## Continental opportunity

**METRO REPORTER**

ESTABLISHED small businesses looking to invest on the continent are being offered a rare opportunity to participate in the Africa Investment Forum, at the ICC from 12-13 September.

The forum, now in its sixth year, is hosted by the Commonwealth Business Council, Durban Investment Promotion Agency, and the municipality.

It is expected to attract delegates from South Africa and internationally.

Dr Mohan Kaul, Director-General and Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Business Council, said: "The forum will provide the participants with a first-hand account of the investment climate in Africa, from a policy and regulatory perspective as well as real-life opportunities in key projects.

### Excellent

"This is an excellent opportunity for small businesses wishing to expand into the continent or seeking African investment in their businesses to network with potential investors and business associates," Curtis said.

A 75% concession on the registration fee for delegates for all Department of Trade and Industry defined small, medium and micro enterprises has been negotiated. And a limited number of

deserving small businesses, members of chambers of business and empowerment companies can apply for the fees to be waived. This is subject to the following conditions:

□ A suitable motivation must be submitted to the Durban Investment Promotion Agency;

□ The business must be registered and its headquarters must be in Durban;

□ Its turnover must not exceed R20 million a year;

□ Only one delegate from each company will be allowed; and

□ The business must be seriously considering pan-African trade or investment.

Registration closes on Friday, 3 September.

For more information contact Sindi, Tshadi or Nkosi on 031 336 2516/32 or visit [www.dipa.co.za](http://www.dipa.co.za) or e-mail [debbie.isaacs@dipa.co.za](mailto:debbie.isaacs@dipa.co.za).

# Focus on climate change

**SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO**

THE council's executive committee (Exco) has tasked City Manager Michael Sutcliffe with compiling a report on the adverse effects of climate change in Durban.

The move by Exco was prompted by recent big seas and high tides that recently devastated a sizeable area of Amanzimtoti beach on the South Coast.

Mayor Obed Mlaba, who presented a report to the committee on the damage caused by the unusual wave action to Toti, said eThekweni and other municipalities needed to brace themselves for the effects of climate change.

He said eThekweni had thrice this year witnessed natural phenomenon that could be linked to climate change.

"This has been discussed at a national level where it was agreed that all spheres of government needed to tackle the challenge of climate change," he said.

Mlaba was referring to a national cabinet debate in May this year on climate change. At that debate President Thabo Mbeki said the country was gearing up to build new power stations that relied on coal.

He said the effects of climate change on sustainable development would be

severe unless something drastic was done to combat global warming.

"We are determined to ensure all levels of government implement integrated plans on this matter," said Mbeki.

DA caucus leader in eThekweni, Cllr John Steenhuisen said the city's Dr Debra Roberts had compiled an excellent book that explained climate change and its effects in simple terms.

"The book speaks on the effects of climate change and I am hoping it can be made available to the public so that they can better understand climate change," he said.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) paints a grim picture of the effects of climate change in the country and globally.

Research by the institute shows climate change could lead to provinces such as Mpumalanga, Limpopo, the North West, KwaZulu-Natal and even Gauteng becoming malaria zones by 2050.

SANBI said that the effects would not only be limited to humans but would lead to at least 100 species of plants becoming extinct.

The damage caused by the waves at Toti, which washed away more than 50m of the main beach, has been estimated at R8-million.

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## Deadline looms for small business fair

**SOHANNA SINGH**

WITH just a few weeks to go before the yearly Small Business Fair, SMMEs better be quick about booking the few remaining stands.

More than 200 emerging and established small, medium, and micro enterprises have already registered to display their products and services at the fair, at the Durban Exhibition Centre, from 28-30 September.

A business linkage programme and a conference are part of the event, and SMMEs have been advised to register early for these.

The City's Business Support Unit, which is organising the fair, have teamed up with the Small Enterprise Development Agency, and the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry to put together the conference.

Speakers will share their experiences with SMMEs on how to empower themselves to do business in the international market and to take advantage of opportunities.

"The conference promises to be informative and inter-

esting," said Philip Sithole, Acting Head of the Business Support Unit.

Subjects include helping SMMEs access international markets; using procurement as a tool for black empowerment; and the World Cup as a driver of business development and economic growth.

### Popular

The popular business linkage programme aims to match large companies with SMMEs who can provide them with services.

Sithole said a number of big corporates and parastatals had confirmed they would be attending, and arrangements would be made for them to meet and interview registered SMMEs at the fair.

To register, call Black Business Link on 031 467 5090 or e-mail [info@blackbusinesslink.co.za](mailto:info@blackbusinesslink.co.za).

For more information on the exhibition and to register for the conference, contact Ikhone Communications on 031 266 9937/8 or e-mail [lindani@ikhonokzn.co.za](mailto:lindani@ikhonokzn.co.za).

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