

Plenty to celebrate in the coming month

WE HAVE plenty to celebrate in

September. It is National Heritage Month and also the time we celebrate the cultural diversity, music, arts, food and dance with the Celebrate Durban Festival.

When we launched this festival it was with the aim that Celebrate Durban should become a yearly event because it could contribute to the building of civic pride and the enhancement of Durban's profile and positioning as South Africa's playground.

In mind were certain principles we wanted to achieve, including: to build on eThekweni's existing assets and attributes; to encourage civic pride; and to build or enhance existing service providers.

Each year the festival has grown and gotten bigger and better.

"It's Our City", is the theme this year and we want all the people of Durban to get involved, to participate and to claim ownership of this vibrant, multicultural city.

An important element of the Celebrate Durban line-up is the main SMME Fair, at the Durban Exhibition Centre from 25 to 28 September.



Obed Mlaba
eThekweni Mayor

Judging from the successes of the regional SMME Fairs, this is going to be something to look forward to.

The only way we are going to eradicate poverty is through growth, jobs, skills development and economic prosperity for all.

We know that by supporting the SMME (small, medium, and micro enterprises) sector through our Business Support Unit we are igniting a spark that will soon turn into a blaze of growth and productivity.

Also, an exciting new book fair, which includes creative writing and story telling for the young, will be held at the Botanic Gardens and City Hall on 23 September.

When I launched Celebrate Durban in May 2002 I concluded with the following words: "We want the citizens to take ownership. This is not the council's party – it is an opportunity for thousands of citizens to get involved and to celebrate Durban."

I will amend that slightly now in 2007 – Celebrate Durban is an opportunity for hundreds of thousands of citizens to get involved and to celebrate Durban. Halala eThekweni, Halala!

We're restructuring – not axing people

OVER the past few months there has been much speculation about the institutional review and reorganisation process that I have been undertaking.

Speculation has even gone so far as to claim some people will be losing their jobs as a result of it.

Unfortunately, such silliness and gossip mongering is one of the unfortunate side effects of a large corporate structure of about 20 000 personnel.

The fact is I am very proud to head an organisation that delivers wonderfully for the people of our city and acts to ensure the progress and policies set by Council are implemented.

There is no need to dramatically change an organisation that is working very well, as is evidenced by the many awards we have received.

Rather, we will be rearranging some of the units so as to ensure the organisation becomes more effective, efficient and economic.

We will be retaining the situation where a number of units report directly to me and then the remainder will be arranged into six clusters, each headed by a deputy city manager.

The DCMs will have two sets of responsibilities:

(1) As heads of clusters they will supervise and oversee some of the units; they will ensure heads of departments perform well, they will drive the development and evaluation of our policies and they



Michael Sutcliffe
eThekweni Manager

will liaise with the relevant political heads; and

(2) They will act as my deputies, ensuring our plans are properly integrated and being implemented and that the many responsibilities we have will be properly dealt with.

We will have three key administrative committees of senior management.

The first will bring together all units whose job it is to enforce our policies.

The second will look at the risks we face and will find ways we can manage our municipality more effectively.

And the third will look at things such as our events, advertising, branding and marketing our units and programmes.

We will be making some changes to some units.

Reporting lines will stay largely the same so day-to-day operations will not be affected. But some units may be merged with others to fall under one head, while others may be divided so that where one head managed affairs before, now there would be two heads.

These are being done to improve the overall effectiveness of our organisation and in some cases ensure we better comply with legislative requirements.

In the next few weeks the details will be finalised and will go through the usual processes within the municipality. What I am sure of is that they will enhance our organisation and keep us at the forefront of service delivery.

“ I am proud to head an organisation that delivers wonderfully for the people

RIVER OF LIGHT



THE N3, as it morphs into Berea Road, resembles a river of light, flowing down from Tollgate Bridge towards the sea. Digital photographer Bryan Paynter took the picture from the rooftop of a Musgrave Road block of flats. Send your Durban photographs to eZasegagasini Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4001; or e-mail naidoothrusha@durban.gov.za and we will publish the best high-resolution photos. Please provide your details and the names of the people in your picture

LETTERS

Stop trucks from blocking Edwin Swales, Bayhead

I WRITE in response to the article on key performance areas for traffic officers posts in the *Mercury* of 1 August.

Officers are, and I quote, "Taking the necessary action and enforcing the law in respect of all matters requiring attention on daily patrol, including crime prevention operations, traffic offences, bylaw enforcing and road obstructions."

As a former traffic officer, I don't see any of this taking place.

I'm referring to the daily blocking of roads by trucks on Bayhead Road.

There are two lanes in either direction with a centre island, which are all blocked by trucks.

What happens if emergency vehicles need to get to this area?

Edwin Swales VC Drive is going the same way with barriers and storm water drains demolished by trucks parked on the pavements.

Metro Police should be charging offenders who are easy to locate as they sometimes leave their trailers overnight.

The roads department were repairing a damaged area on the pavement the other day while a truck was parked obstructing their repair job?

Where are all the police during peak hours besides doing roadblocks and only asking for drivers' licenses?

Please help the Bluff residents

get to and from home each day. I appeal to residents to send in photos of these trucks daily to the Metro Police or newspapers.

JOHN MACDONALD
Durban

LAW enforcement is taking place on Edwin Swales VC Drive and Bayhead Road.

Both areas are demanding more attention but we are making inroads in terms of improving the free flow of traffic and preventing traffic violations. The matter is not being neglected.

SUPT JOHN-THOMAS TYALA
Metro Police Spokesperson

Manage uShaka better Well done!

AS A FORMER uShaka Marine World employee, I can tell you the park is an amazing facility.

A lot of its problems come from the people who run it.

I am not opposed to the recent loan granted to it ("R150m loan for Ushaka", eZasegagasini Metro, 10 August), but for the bailing-out not to continue indefinitely, some changes must be made.

The whole management team needs to be seriously looked at, and their performance measured.

Agencies appointed to market the establishment must be looked at, including their background, ownership, and understanding of the South African population as a whole.

There are tons of people in KwaZulu-Natal alone who have not been to uShaka, but the marketing does not speak to the masses.

Marketing is just one of many shortfalls in the management of uShaka.

I could continue at length, but my point is this: "Insanity is when you keep doing the same thing but expect different results each time."

The sooner uShaka can stand on its feet, the better. The money could then be better used to address other needs.

THE municipality has installed a stormwater line across my Wimbledon Grove property, linking it to a main line. I would like to express my thanks for the efficient way the work was done.

MRS V NAIR
Verulam

Connection made

MANY thanks for dealing with my problem regarding water to my property not being connected.

Also, thanks to Mrs Watson for following things up.

KEVIN WASMUTH
Pinetown

BHEKA
Durban