

ABOUT US

The eZasegagasini 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:
eZasegagasini Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4000
Newsroom: 311 2290/81/84 Fax: 306 4603
Communications: 311 2279
angamuthuv@durban.gov.za
eThekweni Info Centre
0800 331 011 (toll-free)
Fax: 304 2880
sizakala@durban.gov.za
Visit: Shop 12, Old Mutual Arcade, 303 West Street

STAFF

Editor: Vasantha Angamuthu
Acting News Editor: Thrusa Naidoo
Sub-editor: Matthew Hattingh
Writers: Siyabonga Maphumulo, Ken Mchunu, Nomusa Makhutle, Sohana Singh, Alan Cooper, Gabi Khumalo, Vernon Mchunu
Photographer: Bonga Msimang
Translations: Themba Nyathikazi

CONTACTS

Municipal queries:
0800 331 011
Electricity faults:
080 131 3001
Electricity Tampering
Northern: 569 8300
Southern: 311 5032
Central: 710 1816
Street Light Faults:
0800 331 022
Robot Faults:
0800 333 467
Emergencies: 361 0000
Ambulance: 101 77
Revenue Billing: 328 1200
Metro Police
Central: 300 3333
Chatsworth: 402 0680
Inner West: 709 0808
North: 561 1297
Outer West: 767 1222
South: 910 7321
Regional offices
Central: 311 1111
North: 561 1101
South: 913 4300
Umkomaas: 311 5407
Outer West: 761 5800
Inner West: 718 2111
Overgrown verges and trees:
Central: 205 1418
Inner West: 718 3501/7
North: 566 3712
Outer West: 767 3908
South: 311 5733
Stormwater; burst mains; sewer faults; and traffic signals:
080 131 3013
Disaster Management:
306 4074
Animal Nuisance: 306 4422
Durban Solid Waste (DSW):
311 8804

Housing boost for Bonella

VERNON MCHUNU

SCORES of needy middle-income earners will soon benefit from a pioneering multi-million rand social housing project.

Fenced, adequately greened and boasting children's playgrounds and parking lots, more than 100 homes – including one- and two-bedrooms units in 10 separate blocks – will be built in the Bonella area before the end of the year.

The R18-million project, launched by Mayor Obed Mlaba and MEC for Housing Mike Mabuyakhulu, is meant to provide accommodation to families with an income of R3 500 to R7 000 a month.

Often this group is left out in the cold because they can't afford houses on the property market and are not eligible for the government subsidy offered to low-income earners.

"This programme is an important policy intervention which throws a

lifeline to people who would have fallen through the cracks in our housing policy regime," said Mabuyakhulu.

He said the project was expected to be a trailblazer for similar developments across the province.

Loan

The government will contribute R42 000 towards each of the 148 units. The remaining R17.5-million will be funded through an interest bearing loan from the National Housing Finance Corporation.

The project will be developed in line with the government's policy on social housing, which encourages the erection of housing blocks to save land.

The first-phase units are scheduled for hand-over to residents in July, and the entire project is due for completion in October.

Mlaba said it was fitting that such a ground-breaking



TRAILBLAZING: Mayor Obed Mlaba and Cllr Nigel Gumede, Chairman of eThekweni's Housing committee give the new middle-income housing development in Bonella the thumbs up
Picture: BONGA MSIMANG

housing programme was being started in Umkhumbane (which includes Bonella). "The area is a living monument to human suffering, but is also an inspiring symbol for the resilience of the human spirit," he said.

"We stand here today in an area where our people, deter-

mined to free their country from the bondage of a racially inspired oppression, waged a gallant struggle against the brutal system of apartheid."

"It was in this area that thousands of people who were part of what was then a vibrant multi-racial community in the 1950s were

driven out by apartheid planners in a vain attempt to control the movement of Africans and to enforce policies of racial segregation," Mlaba said.

The project demonstrated the government's commitment to undo the vestiges of apartheid planning.

Goodwill visit strengthens Maputo, eThekweni links

VERNON MCHUNU

THE city of eThekweni is poised to reap rewards following a forging of ties with the city of Maputo.

Both for old times' sake as well as for reasons economic, the two port cities have agreed to tighten the bond that has kept them together since the old dark days of apartheid when Mozambique's Frelimo liberation movement rallied behind the ANC.

Last week, the fathers of the two sister-cities officially signed a memorandum of understanding.

The deal was struck by Mayor Obed Mlaba and his Mozambiquan counterpart, Mayor Eneas da Conceicao Comiche, during this year's first full council sitting at Mpusheni, in Folweni.

In terms of the agreement, a strategic socio-economic partnership will be formed, resulting in spin-offs that will be felt in the two municipalities and across the broader Southern African region.

Aside from the memorandum of understanding, Comiche and team were taken on a tour of eThekweni projects.

These included the port expansion and coastal management, the people mover system, the rationalisation of

rail transport, the development of landfill sites and the move to use the emitted methane gas to produce electricity, as well as the improvement of traffic systems.

It was noted that although

"Now it is time to take that relationship further. So that the two cities and ultimately the two countries can reap rich socio-economic fruit," he said.

Asked to comment on eThekweni's projects, Helder Ossemane, head of Maputo's communications department, said the delegation had been supremely impressed. They had learned much, and would ensure there was a continuous exchange of skills and a sharing of experience.

In turn, said Ossemane, the relationship would help eThekweni to benefit from Maputo, as the latter was influential at a broader spectrum as it occupied key positions in two strategic local government mother organisations, of which Durban was a member.

Maputo is an executive committee member of the international United Cities and Local Government and, in addition, the mayor of Maputo is the vice-chairman of the United Cities and Local Government of African countries.

Mlaba said nothing made him sleep better at night than the knowledge that such strategic partnerships were being forged to benefit the city's citizens and the larger Southern African Development Community.



FIRM FRIENDS: EThekweni Mayor Obed Mlaba and Maputo Mayor Eneas da Conceicao Comiche
Picture: BONGA MSIMANG

Maputo was smaller than eThekweni, the Mozambiquan municipality was more experienced in various matters, including port development, and they would bring this knowledge to the partnership.

"Both our peoples have historic relations," said Comiche.

WHEEL DEAL



NOMVULA Shabalala (seated left) of KwaMashu was overjoyed when she learnt she was the owner of a brand new wheelchair, courtesy of the QuadPara Association of South Africa, and Mayor Obed Mlaba, as part of eThekweni's social responsibility programme. With Nomvula are, from left, her father David Shabalala, Cllr Siphon Ngwenya, and Siphon Mdletshe of the association. The wheelchair was handed over to Nomvula by Cllr Ngwenya on Mlaba's behalf at her home in KwaMashu last week. David Shabalala said the wheelchair would make his little girl's life a lot easier. She had 'suffered a great deal in the past, not being able to go to school because of her physical condition,' he said Picture: KEN MCHUNU

The Ink spot

THE Inanda, Ntuzuma, KwaMashu (Ink) Programme Office, which was at 199 Smith Street, Durban (Suite 2501, 25th Floor, Embassy Building) has moved. It is now at 1139 Ntombela Road, KwaMashu (E Section). The office can be contacted on 031 504 9400. E-mail addresses are unchanged.

Roadworks

VICTORIA Embankment, between Maydon Road and Stanger Street (east and west bound carriageway) are being rehabilitated and roadworks will continue until 16 March. Work will be done from 8am to 4pm from Monday to Friday. The public is urged to take precautions during this period.