

# Surveying disability in eThekweni

**SAMANTHA MOODLEY**

THE eThekweni Municipality is conducting a survey to establish the reading needs of residents living with disabilities.

It is estimated that more than 44 000 eThekweni residents are disabled in some way. In line with its vision of becoming Africa's most caring city, the municipality last year adopted a policy catering to the disabled and elderly. It aims to ensure that vulnerable groups are treated fairly and equally and are

able to easily access all municipal services.

The City's Communications Department took this effort a step further by "test-driving" three of its publications in Braille, large print and on tape aids.

The Department now seeks to develop this into a regular feature, making its publications (including MetroBeat magazine and the eZasegasini Metro newspaper) and other important documents such as rates and electricity accounts, available in different reading formats.

But we need your help to do this. The Department is currently conducting a survey to establish the reading needs of people with different disabilities within eThekweni.

If you are a eThekweni resident with a disability, and have a need for municipal publications to be provided to you in an alternate reading format, please fill in and return the following questionnaire.

Friends and relatives of disabled residents are asked to assist with this if necessary.

Please provide the following information and tick the boxes where applicable:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male  Female

Nature of disability: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an eThekweni Municipality employee? Yes  No

Which publication/s would you like to receive:

- Metro Beat (English only)   
 The Ezasegasini Metro English   
 The Ezasegasini Metro isiZulu

Please indicate which of the following would be your first and second preference:

- |                       | (1)                      | (2)                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hard copy             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Braille               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Large print           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Audio tape            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Audio cd              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Text cd               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Electronic (email)    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Website (read online) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Do you have a need for your rates and electricity account to be provided to you in the alternate reading format selected above? Yes  No

Please indicate how you would like to receive the publication/s (select 1)

- By Mail  Collect at Post Office  Email  
 Collect at Disabled Peoples' Organization  Collect at Sizakala Centre  
 Other (Please state) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your information will be stored on a database with the Communication's Department of the eThekweni Municipality.

Please return this completed questionnaire by **30 June 2008** to Your nearest Sizakala Centre or Disabled Peoples' Organization. For information regarding your nearest Sizakala Customer Care Centre contact the call centre on 0800 331 011 (tollfree).

You can also drop off the completed question at the eThekweni Municipality Communications Department, City Hall Basement, Church Walk Entrance, West Street, Durban.

For enquiries during office hours please contact:

Shakila Maharaj  
 Disability Management Services (DMS)  
 Tel: (031) 2074309  
 Fax: 088 031 2074309  
 Email: shakila@dmsglobal.co.za

# Aid pours in for victims of fire



**TRYING TIMES: An innocent Mbali Ntombela (5) stands aside as a caterpillar removes debris from a burnt shack. Mbali is among those who were left homeless when a fire broke out at Jadhu Place, near Springfield Park, last month**

**DERRICK DLAMINI**

Enduring winter colds and wearing torn clothing are now a thing of the past for hundreds of residents of Jadhu Place settlement near Springfield Park.

About 500 blankets worth R50 000, clothes including nightwear and underwear, coupled with some 700kg of food parcels were recently distributed to victims of shack fire in the area, thanks to the city's Health Department in partnership with the Jamiatul Ulama-the council of Muslim theologians.

About five hundred shacks were burnt down leaving more than 1 000 people displaced when a fire broke out last month due to what was believed to be illegal connections. There were cries

of delight as both the elders and children received the much-needed goods, with city officials promising continuous aid.

## Impact

Residents said it was not the first time that they had experienced similar fire incidents in the area. Simon Stan, of City Health, who has been involved with relief programmes with the municipality for the past 16 years, expressed delight at the rate at which aid was coming. He said the donations would have a meaningful impact on the lives of the residents, especially the children.

"These people are faced with grave challenges and we need all the help we can get to try and restore their normal

life. As a caring municipality, we hope to lobby for more support and aid for them." He thanked the Muslim charity, Jamiatul Ulama, for their "prompt response in times of need."

One victim, Sindi Ndlovu (35), described the aid as a revelation. With tears in her eyes, she said, "Definitely, this will reverse half, if not most, of the hardships we've been facing since the day of the disaster. We are truly grateful to council and its partners, for their unremitting efforts towards championing this noble course," she said.

Spokesperson for the Jamiatul Ulama, Mhamed Bayat, said partnering with council's health officials in fighting poverty was in line with their overall objective of helping the poor in the province.

# Luck of the One Nation Draw

**SAMANTHA MOODLEY**

DURBAN was the first team selected at the One Nation Cup under-15 international soccer tournament draw held at uShaka Marine World recently.

Perhaps it is a good omen that the city was the first to be picked out of the pot by Mayor Obed Mlaba, but whether eThekweni can pull off a win like the last One Nation Cup in Bremen, Germany remains to be seen.

The One Nation Cup will see sixteen of eThekweni's sister cities pitted against each other in a six-day soccer tournament, set to take place at the George Campbell Technical School from 7 to 11 July.

Journalists, soccer legends and international delegates turned out for the draw, and the event is seen by many as a useful measure of the city's readiness for the 2010 World Cup.

Mlaba said, "This in itself is a prelude to the World Cup and gives us an opportunity to see how it is to host an international event of this nature. I'm sure we will rise to the

occasion as we have before with events like the AI GP".

Group A of the cup consists of Durban, Guangzhou, Bamako and Le Port. Alexandria, Prague and Daejeon comprise Group B. Group C is made up of Maputo, Izmir and New Orleans and Group D consists of Namibia, Bremen and Bulawayo. Three other teams have yet to confirm their participation in the event.

"Whether we win or not, this city has arrived, and has taken its rightful place in the affairs of the nation. So let's keep it that way," said Mlaba.

Thirteen schools from around the eThekweni region were "twinned" with the participating countries and the schools will have to conduct research on their given country. This aspect of the event was designed to ensure that the countries have a fan base in Durban. For more info contact [orga@onenationcup.com](mailto:orga@onenationcup.com) or [AdamsT@durban.gov.za](mailto:AdamsT@durban.gov.za) or visit [www.durban.gov.za](http://www.durban.gov.za).