

DERRICK DLAMINI

THE annual South Durban Basin (SDB) Small Business fair starts today and continues at the Umlazi Mega City this weekend, with 170 emerging entrepreneurs set to display their wares.

The fair, hosted by the City's Business Support Unit and the SDB Area-Based Management, is the first of a series of Council-backed regional small business fairs, which will culminate with a main

Business fair this weekend

fair at the Durban Exhibition Centre in September, with 350 exhibitors expected.

The City is spending R7-million on small business fairs this year – R2.5-million of which will be for the main fair.

A packed programme has been arranged for the SDB fair with experts in various fields hosting workshops.

There will also be opportunities for emerging businesses to network with big businesses.

Philip Sithole, Acting Head of the Business Support Unit, urged corporate businesses to "support this significant programme".

Zanele Mngoma, of Mahala Foods Processing Enterprise, said that the fairs were

vital for business growth.

"Over the years I have achieved amazing results, thanks to my participation at the fairs. They are a perfect platform to learn and improve one's products and services," she said.

Nobelungu Ngcobo, of KwaMashu Arts and Crafts, said: "Fairs have given us confidence and exposure to

compete." She urged the public to attend the fair and support local businesses.

The dates for the regional small business fairs are as follows:

□ West: Pinetown Civic Centre, 7 May;

□ North (Rural): Tongaat Indoor Sports Centre, 17 May;

□ South (Rural): Adams Sports Ground, 24 May; and

□ Inanda, Ntuzuma, KwaMashu: J.L. Dube Stadium, Inanda, 6-8 June.

dlaminisd@durban.gov.za

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
naidoothrusha@durban.gov.za
eThekweni Info Centre
0800 331 011 (toll-free)
sizakala@durban.gov.za

STAFF

Editor: Ntsiki Magwaza

News Editor:

Thrusha Naidoo

Sub-editor:

Matthew Hattingh

Writers: Siyabonga

Maphumulo, Ken Mchunu, Sohana Singh, Alan Cooper, Derrick Dlamini, Samantha Moodley, Gugu Bloese, Mack Makhathini, Sane Shandu, Themba Nyathikazi, Themba Khumalo, Emmanuel Kleinbooi

Photographers:

Bonga Msimang, Themba Khumalo

Translations:

Siyabonga Maphumulo, Themba Nyathikazi, Ken Mchunu, Derrick Dlamini

CONTACTS

Municipal queries:

0800 331 011

Electricity faults:

080 131 3111

Electricity Tampering

080 131 3111

Street Light Faults:

080 131 3111

Robot Faults:

0800 333 467

Emergencies:

031 361 0000

Ambulance: 101 77

Revenue Billing:

031 328 1200

Metro Police

Central: 031 300 3333

Chatsworth: 031 402 0680

Inner West: 031 709 0808

North: 031 561 1297

Outer West: 031 767 1222

South: 031 910 7321

Regional offices

Central: 031 311 1111

North: 031 561 1101

South: 031 311 5844

Umkomaas: 031 311 5407

Outer West: 031 311 2717

Inner West: 031 311 6286

Overgrown verges

and trees:

Central: 031 205 1418

Inner West: 031 311 6916

North: 031 566 3712

Outer West: 031 767 3908

South: 031 311 5573

Stormwater; burst mains;

sewer faults; traffic signals:

080 131 3013

Disaster Management:

031 306 4074

Animal Nuisance and

Abandoned Vehicles:

031 311 2814

Durban Solid Waste (DSW):

031 311 8804

Sewage leak claim rejected

KEN MCHUNU

ETHEKWINI Water Services Head Neil McLeod has rejected claims that one of the City's biggest land-to-sea sewage pipelines was leaking about 100m offshore.

McLeod's unit ordered a thorough inspection of the pipe after Dorian Leal, a diver from the Bluff, recently told the *Mercury* he had spotted what appeared to be a leak.

Leal had reportedly been diving about a year ago when he said he saw a leak from a joint in the City's central sewage works outfall, 80-100m offshore.

He said he had swum through the effluent plume and got sick as a result.

McLeod said: "I have not been able to find out why he waited a year before going to the newspaper and why he never approached us.

"Incidentally, the pipeline is continuously welded and does not have flanged joints."

This outfall is one of two pipelines that carry partially treated sewage about 4km out to sea, where it is discharged at a depth of about 60m below sea level.

These outfalls were commissioned in 1968, he said.

"We contract the CSIR to take samples and test the water in a wide area around these pipelines, as well as the condition of the sea bed and the impact on mussels, etc living on the shore from the

Isipingo river to the harbour entrance.

"The results of these surveys are published every year and presented at a public meeting, held usually in August. These surveys confirm the sea outfalls are working well," McLeod said.

'No evidence'

In response to Leal's claims, a professional diving company was contracted to inspect the central outfall for a distance of 250m from the shore. No evidence of any leak was found, McLeod said.

Leal has since alleged in the *Mercury* that the leak was under a part of the pipeline that is covered by sea sand and that this sand is acting in a way similar to a swimming pool filter.

"This comparison is ridiculous because in a pool filter, the water flows down through the sand and the sand remains compressed in the filter.

"In the case of the outfall, the effluent would flow upwards through the sand, if there was a leak, like a filter being back washed, and any leak would be very evident as it would flow through the expanded sand.

"The allegations have been thoroughly investigated and found to be false. The pipeline is not leaking as alleged," said McLeod.

mchunuk@durban.gov.za



PRISHEN Moodley, of Verulam, was among the more than 80 artists who have submitted entries for the 2010 Durban Poster Design Competition, at the Moses Mabhida Visitors Centre. The competition, with a R20 000 first prize, closed on Tuesday. The winning poster will be announced by world football governing body Fifa in September. The poster will be used to publicise the city in the run up to, and during the World Cup

Picture: DERRICK DLAMINI

Hostels will get better service – mayor vows

SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

RESIDENTS of Hostels formerly administered by the Provincial Government can expect better services now that the City has taken them over.

That was the assurance given by Mayor Obed Mlaba at a recent meeting with hostel dwellers at Kwa-Makhutha, south of the City.

Mlaba, who was accompanied by City officials from the "delivery" departments, said the improved Hostels would now be known as Community Residential units.

"We are converting what were male dormitories under the apartheid system into family units. Our aim is to restore the dignity of hostel dwellers."

He said because in the past some hostels in the city had been administered by the

Provincial Government, it had been impossible for the City to render services. As a result, people had been receiving unequal standards of service.

"On the one hand you had people receiving all the essential services from the City, and on the other hostel dwellers not being adequately catered for."

Complaints

Mlaba said this had resulted in hostel dwellers complaining to Councillors.

"We then negotiated for a transfer so we could render services ourselves," he said.

Common problems cited by hostel dwellers included leaky pipes, ageing electricity infrastructure, and poor waste management.

Cyprian Ngcobo, a Project Executive with the City's Housing Department, said

contractors would soon begin putting in new pipes and repairing wiring at Kwa-Makhutha hostel.

"You may have already seen inspectors visiting... we want to reassure you, you should be seeing progress in a month or two," said Ngcobo.

Mlaba, himself a former hostel resident, said a city-wide hostel improvement programme was in place.

"Vast improvements can already be seen at Jacobs and KwaMashu," he said.

The KwaMakhutha hostel is one of the four hostels taken over by the City from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Housing last year.

The other three are in KwaDabeka, KwaMashu and Umlazi. The Province has pledged R250-million over three years to upgrade the hostels.

maphumulosiya@durban.gov.za

Youth focus on crime

SAMANTHA MOODLEY

YOUTH safety and crime prevention will be up for discussion at a Youth Dialogue at the City Hall today.

The event, an initiative by the Municipality's Safer Cities Unit and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Community Safety and Liaison, is a follow-up to the dialogue held last month on issues faced by the youth.

It will be attended by parents, teachers, government officials and community-based organisations.

Recommendations from the dialogues would be taken

to the International Youth Summit, to be held at the ICC in June.

Some 250 youths from eThekweni and the Ilembe District are expected at today's dialogue.

They will discuss the effect of violence on the young and the roles of youth organisations, schools and universities in crime prevention, creating recreational opportunities for youth, and the role of sports, art, music and dance as a tool for crime prevention.

For more information call 031 311 4455.

moodleysamantha@durban.gov.za