

Improved services and better life for all in Mawelawela

VUMI MCHUNU

FOR decades, the residents of Mawelawela, just outside Durban, have been neglected in terms of service delivery. Now, with support from the nationally funded Municipal Infrastructure Grant and the eThekweni Municipality, the area is finally getting much needed basic services.

A green-fields development area, the Mawelawela Development Project area borders Savannah Park on the North, Welbedacht to the South and Klaarwater in the West. The site is close to the major road networks which link Pinetown South with Queensburgh, Shallcross and Chatsworth.

Under apartheid, Mawelawela was chronically underserved in terms of basic service delivery despite its central location. It and other such areas in eThekweni represent the massive challenges that are continually being met in addressing housing and infrastructure backlogs.

The total value of the Mawelawela project is just over R19-million. The project was divided into different phases to enable a smooth flow of resources and efficiently track progress, and was carried out in conjunction with the eThekweni Housing Department. Funding from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant amounted to R12-million with Council



SERVICE DELIVERY: The residents of the previously neglected area of Mawelawela are finally receiving important basic infrastructure in their community

counter-funding providing another R7-million.

The scope of the project includes sewer and storm water reticulation, road construction and water delivery. The project is about to be completed.

Mawelawela is home to more than 700 households, collectively comprising 3 685 people.

The people of the area have benefited greatly from the project.

As well as finally being provided with bulk services, they are also reaping rewards in terms of jobs, skills and training opportunities which have arisen from the project. "People in this area used to cry for opportunities," says single parent Nonhlanhla Cele who lives in Mawela-

wela. "But all that has changed since we have become part of this development. With the money I am earning from this project, I am now able to provide for my children."

The improvements made in Cele's life and in the Mawelawela community is one example of how the eThekweni Municipality is committed to its mandate to improve the quality of life of all its citizens.

This is demonstrated by the Municipality's commitment to fighting backlogs with projects such as this which engage with and benefit their communities, and which help to fight the daily battles which take place on the frontiers of poverty and unemployment.



AFRICAN RHYTHM: Mayor Obed Mlaba shakes the calabash with (left to right) artist Miyere Ole Miyandazi, poet Sakhile Shabalala, Ambassador to Madagascar Denis Adriamadroso and poet and singer Amandla Maphalala

Celebrating Africa Day in style

THE AFRICA Day concert took place as part of the Tenth Annual African Renaissance Festival. The concert took place at the ICC Durban and was the culmination of week-long celebrations throughout the city. Some of the performers and groups which attended the festivities were Mafikizolo, Malini and Johnny Clegg. The artists condemned the Xenophobic attacks that had taken place in the previous two weeks and called for peace and tolerance in South Africa.

Apart from the ICC celebrations, other

events around the city included a music festival at Chesterville grounds which featured a host of reggae artists from surrounding areas as well as members of the Hare Krishna community from Chatsworth.

There was also a two-day conference attended by more than 500 delegates, consisting mostly of local and international academics. The international contingent was representing the African diaspora. The conference was aimed at consolidating African identity in the face of colonialism.

Meet your new Deputy City Manager for sustainability

SOHANA SINGH

MEET Nomaxabiso Mahlawe, eThekweni Municipality's newly appointed Deputy City Manager for Sustainable Development and City Enterprises – an influential woman with passion, enthusiasm and drive.

With a suite of departments ranging from Development and Planning Management to Business Support under her command, she is well qualified to fulfill the responsibilities of the job. Mahlawe has her Masters in Town and Regional Planning, and Honours in Psychology and Politics.

Add to that, Mahlawe has kept her knowledge and skills honed by completing the Management Advancement Programme through the Wits Business School.

Her interest in rural and regional development saw her complete a programme called Rural Industrialisation where she studied co-operatives in Israel. She has also completed a course on Comparative African Politics that gave her the inspiration to join the Leadership Development Programme with the United Nations University in Amman, Jordan.

Mahlawe believes she is in the right position to take forward eThekweni Municipality's vision to create a better life for all its citizens. "The city will be liveable if

access to facilities is made available to the most vulnerable people, without undermining the value of people who have prospered," commented Mahlawe.

Her career has spanned different spheres of government, co-ordinating, aligning and integrating complex strategies and launching some well known campaigns.



engineering process in the Johannesburg Metro Council.

Mahlawe says that her leadership and strength are inherited from her mother, while the humility and solid grounding that she received from her father has moulded her into the person she is today. She describes herself as a mother, a visionary, and a pioneer. Her career has been characterised by introducing change and transformation. "One of the things I love the most is inspiring people to act for socio-political change, and helping others see a brighter life."

A great believer in the idea that people create their own reality, Mahlawe reckons that spiritual transformation is the greatest area in which work still needs to be done.

"We all need to ensure that humanity lives the way it was meant to. Liberation is one step in a larger process. More needs to be done to encourage moral regeneration, caring and commitment in people to make positive things happen."

Mahlawe plans to do just that as Deputy City Manager. She wishes to use her position, which she describes as a privilege, to empower the vulnerable and ensure that the investment that is poured into the city leaves a socially responsible footprint, so that Durban becomes known in Africa as its most caring city.

Exhibition about disabilities

SANE SHANDU

IN MAY last year the eThekweni Municipality's Community Participation and Action Support Unit held a two day Disability Summit aimed at raising awareness and establishing partnerships with relevant roleplayers.

This was preceded by a workshop with the disability sector where needs were identified in an effort for the Municipality to prepare a programme of action.

As a follow up, the Municipality is having a Disability exhibition in which various organisations, government departments and the business sector will be exhibiting products and services that are of benefit to people with disabilities.

The purpose of the exhibition is to:

- Enhance partnership with the relevant role players;
- Raise awareness on issues of disability and;
- Identify business opportunities and establish

markets for people with disabilities.

ICC

The exhibition will be held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 3 – 4 June. Stands will be available for exhibitors to set up on 2 June from 9am until 4pm.

For expression of interest and more information, you can contact Zanele Dlamini on 031 208 0412 or 083 303 5723.

New burial plan for eThekweni

NESTLIFE Assurance has introduced a Family Protection Plan for members of your family to ensure they don't experience a financial strain in the unfortunate event of loss of a loved one.

The Plans provide for families, individuals and extended family members.

The Family Protection Scheme was launched as a response to the many requests received from eThekweni Burial Scheme

policyholders.

NestLife has provided a plan that will cater for the full funeral cost.

Please take note of the following details about the burial scheme:

- Funeral Cash Payout – only cash is paid out
- Double Cover – double the normal funeral cover if death was due to an accident
- Lump Sum Accident

Hospitalisation Benefit – this is an amount paid for each day spent in the hospital.

To join the main member must be between 16 and 64 years old at the date of joining.

For more information about the NestLife Funeral Scheme contact Thulani Dlamini on 031 304 2770 / 079 344 5954 or thulani@nestlife.co.za. You can also fax 031 304 2279.