

Human rights belong to all people

WE HAVE invested a lot over the past 13 years to take this country to where it is today. We cannot afford to sit back and relax when all our



Obed Mlaba
eThekweni Mayor

people are expected to be united. When we were awarded the right to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup, we were speaking in one voice saying the rights are not for South Africa only, but

gains are being reversed. The current government which is led by the ANC has always condemned xenophobia and its associated behaviour.

South Africa has laws, rules and policies. There are also mechanisms that are in place through which people can voice their dissatisfaction if there are some foreigners who behave in a manner that breaks the laws, rules or policies that govern our country.

From the reports that we have, it is crystal clear that this xenophobic behaviour is used as a scapegoat. Yes, it may happen that one or two people started this but then the situation got hijacked by the criminal element. We have seen an increase in the incidence of shop looting. Why do these people target businesses owned by these foreigners? The most worrying thing is that once these elements are inside the foreigner's business premises, they start looting.

As we approach 2010, African

extend beyond the boundaries of South Africa to encompass the whole of Africa. What we are doing now goes against the grain. It defeats the whole spirit that has been prevailing until now, of an African FIFA World Cup.

At government level, we are trying to forge unity among all African states but on the ground we see a different picture. The formation of Nepad was the brainchild of our government in order to form closer co-operation between all African countries. How can we talk about unity and partnership when we kill the very people with whom we are trying to form partnerships?

Let us act responsibly, and if there are any issues that we want to raise, let us follow the proper channels. Let us not open up opportunities for criminals to satisfy their aspirations. As eThekweni Municipality we denounce violence and condemn these xenophobic acts. We hope sanity will prevail.

Rating the value of your property

OUR NEW valuation roll is taking shape and we remain on track to implement the new rating policy. The completed Valuation Roll was publicly released on 13



Michael Sutcliffe
eThekweni Manager

reviewed by the consultant, with additional information being sought from objectors who have not provided the necessary information in terms of the objections form provisions,

February 2008. The new Roll contains 502 378 properties, including for the first time the individual valuing of Sectional Title Units.

In support of this launch, the Roll was available at all Sizakala Centres. A dedicated call centre that was open until 9pm each evening was set up, and our website augmented these actions, by providing access to the Roll and supporting documentation and information. The Valuation Roll had some 410 000 hits in the first week alone from this web link. We believe this service to our communities has been superior to that of any other City in South Africa.

eThekweni Municipality opened the Roll for Objections on 13 February 2008 for a 48 day period, a 60% greater period than that stipulated in the Act. In response to this, some 50 169 submissions have been received and captured. Only 5% of these were for non-residential properties.

The task of sifting through the objections then began. Unfortunately, the first problem we encountered was that many people did not motivate why they thought their property had been valued too high. In fact only 15% of the objections provided full motivations in support of value reductions. Some 25% of all the objections have no supporting motivation whatsoever, being of a petition nature expressing concerns about the impact of rates changes.

The objections are now being

rather than simply rejecting these. It is important to know that we will communicate directly with each objector once we have decided to either increase the property value, decrease it or leave it as originally published.

As we indicated earlier, we will be publishing Supplementary Valuation Rolls a few times a year. Where changes do not affect value, such as a change in ownership, the roll may simply be amended. Where changes comprise a change in value, change in use, or the addition of a property to the roll, a supplementary roll must be prepared and published.

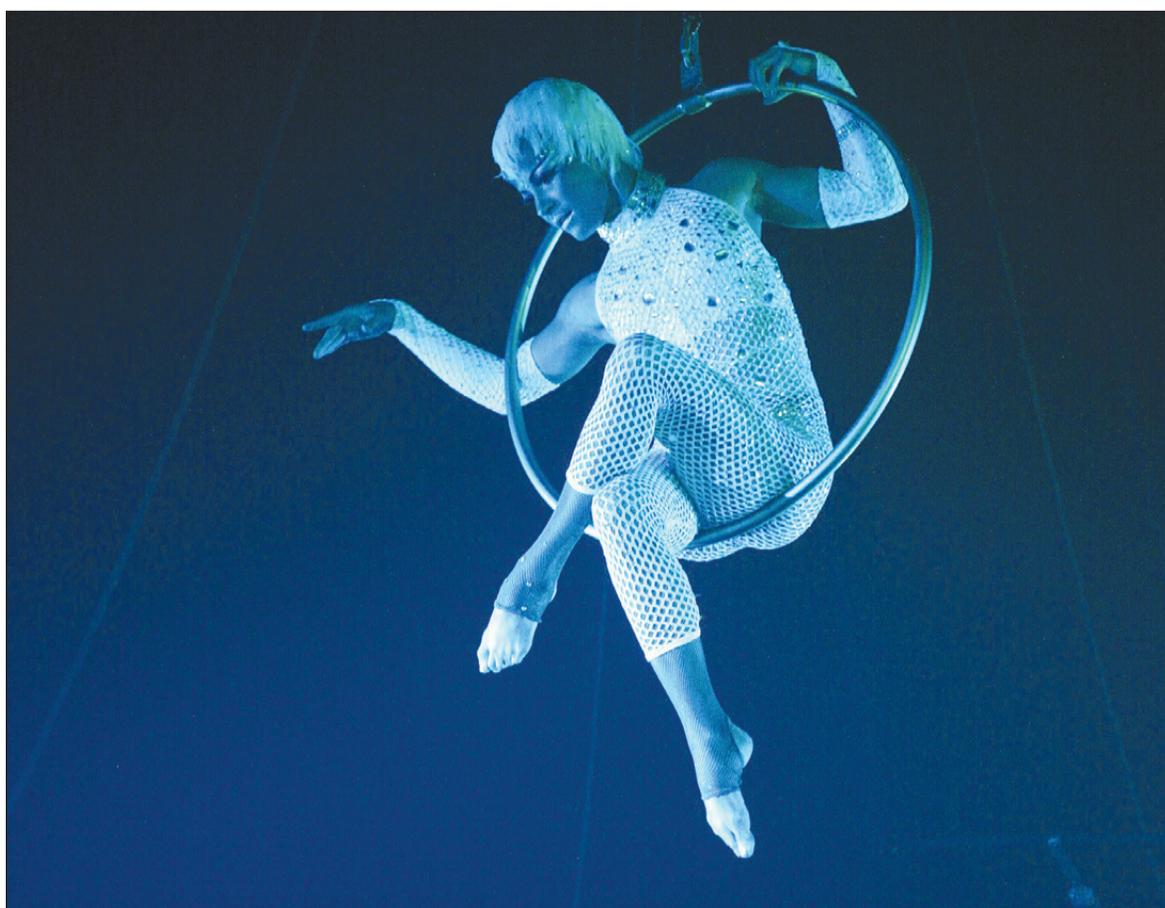
These Supplementary Valuation Rolls deal with properties which:

- o were omitted from the roll
- o were included in the municipality after the last general valuation
- o have been subdivided or consolidated
- o have increased or decreased in value due to additions/demolitions
- o were incorrectly valued during the last general valuation
- o have had a change in use

The first Supplementary Roll was published on 22 May 2008. It contained 70 158 entries. 28 000 of these are to re-categorise State land into its actual Property Use Category, add some new Sectional Title properties and correct the Roll following audit checks.

The new system will be fairer than before and I have no doubt that in the next few months we will have sorted out all the concerns regarding the market valuations of properties.

SITTING PRETTY



THIS picture, from the Madame Zingara production, currently showing at Suncoast, was taken by Craig Scott. Send your Durban photographs to eZasegagasi 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 any people in your picture

LETTERS

Thank you for providing traffic police in Inanda

A BIG thank you to the Metro Police for finally placing a pointsman at the corner of Inanda Road and Parlock Drive. He was not only courteous, but dealt firmly with errant motorists, especially minibus taxi drivers who terrorise law-abiding motorists by cutting lanes to get to the front of the queue.

These errant taxi drivers were

redirected to join the queue, which pleased law-abiding motorists waiting their turn.

Placing patrolmen and pointsmen at intersections to and from the N2 at Inanda Road also helped to ease traffic flow in this area, which has become chaotic because it serves thousands of vehicles from Sea Cow Lake, Newlands, Parlock, Bakerville,

Newlands East, Newlands West, Briardale and KwaMashu at peak times.

I hope the placing of pointsmen at these intersections was not a flash in the pan and that they will be there for weeks and months, if not permanently.

KHALIL ANIFF
Newlands

Airport dirt

AS WE prepare for 2010, how about starting by cleaning up the dirt, sleeping vagrants, street children and beggars as one enters from the airport into town?

At the robots coming off the freeway (M14), bottles, papers and buildings look grubby and dirty. Please give some unemployed people or Metro workers the job of keeping the entrance to our city clean.

N SCHUTTE
Durban

Congratulations to traffic officers at Warwick Junction

I AM always quick to complain, but this time I would like to convey my appreciation to your traffic officers who did such a sterling job controlling traffic at the very big intersection at Warwick junction for two mornings recently when the traffic lights were out of order.

The traffic flowed so well that I and friends who use this route to work all hoped that these traffic lights would stay out of order for longer! Well done to these officers.

LAUREN VAN ROOYEN
Durban

Morelands keeps lights burning 24 hours a day

PLEASE be aware that the lights around the perimeter of, and within, Kindlewood Estate in Mount Edgecombe have been left on since the beginning of April.

This is an underdeveloped suburb. Apart from the perimeter walls and the lights, there is nothing there, not even something as basic as tarred

roads. Why have these lights been left burning day and night since the beginning of last month, whilst the surrounding inhabited suburbs experienced load shedding?

It is totally irresponsible of Tongaat Hullett Developments (Moreland) to fail to conserve energy. Contrary to their

marketing strategy for Kindlewood Estate, which goes something like, "be part of nature", they are the ones destroying nature. A bitter irony, isn't it? Would someone please have this investigated?

VINASHREE MUTHUSAMY
Mount Edgecombe

Send your letters to: The Editor, Letters, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4000; or e-mail: naidoothrusha@durban.gov.za. We reserve the right to edit all letters published.