

Go big, Zweli tells traders

MACK MAKHATHINI

DURBAN'S informal traders may run small businesses, but they should think big and save money to invest in stock exchange-listed companies.

That was the message from KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development and Finance, Dr Zweli Mkhize, who addressed a traders' imbizo at Albert Park last week.

Mkhize challenged the traders to open up a trust and save money so to buy shares in big companies.

He said the government had set aside about R5-million to assist informal traders.

"You should come as associations and open up a trust and save money there. After we've seen that you have been able to run the trust properly we will then give you a portion of that fund."

Some 200 traders received certificates at the imbizo for completing an informal trade food handling course with ICESA.

Mkhize congratulated those who received the certificates. To prevent epidemics, "the way we handle food should be based on highly hygienic practices".

Mayor Obed Mlaba encouraged traders to sell food of high quality. He urged them not to look down on themselves but always strive to be better. "Let's build a country that our children can

be proud of," said Mlaba.

He said they should not remain in the streets forever, but graduate to become small businesses with proper premises, able to contribute meaningfully to the economy of the city.

Safe

Councillor Faso Majola said that during the World Cup, tourists who bought food from the traders shouldn't worry about food poisoning. He said they should be assured the food was safe and healthy.

Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo thanked the traders who participated in the training and wished them well in their businesses. "We know that you will grow to become big business people."

Head of the City's Business Support and Markets Unit, Philip Sithole, said the certificates would certify that the traders knew how to handle food.

The Municipality's Informal Trade Manager, Thulani Nzama, said the latest graduates brought to 1 000 the number of traders trained in various courses since 2002 at a cost of about R2-million. Some of the courses were held in partnership with higher learning institutions.

"In the coming year we will be doing foreign languages courses," Nzama said.

makhathini@durban.gov.za



AMBITIOUS: MEC for Economic Development and Finance, Dr Zweli Mkhize, has urged informal traders to form a trust so they can access government funding

Picture: JESSIE SINGH

'Aids goes beyond health'

SIPHOKAZI NTSHANGASE

AIDS should not be seen solely as a health issue – it's a social issue too, says Mayor Obed Mlaba.

Mlaba, who chairs the eThekweni Local Aids Council, was speaking at a seminar on the "Decentralised Response to HIV/Aids in South Africa" project, at the Balmoral Hotel recently.

Representatives of seven municipalities attended the seminar where they discussed a policy being drafted to deal with the disease through local government partnerships.

The project is funded by the Dutch government and involves the South African Local Government Association and its Netherlands counterpart.

Mlaba said: "We need to intensify the fight against Aids. If we don't the next generation will judge us harshly."

He said in traditional cultures it is taboo to have sex before marriage, and if we learnt lessons from the past much could be done to halt the spread of HIV and Aids.

"As parents we need to play a bigger role in educating our children about life issues."

Deputy City Manager for the Health Cluster, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, said intervention programmes should be put in place to prevent the spread of the disease.

ntshangases@durban.gov.za

Want to know how to win a tender?

KEN MCHUNU

DURBAN'S emerging entrepreneurs are being offered an opportunity to get the low-down on how to land and fulfil Municipal tenders.

The City's Supply Chain Management Unit has organised a series of training workshops on the subject.

"We want people to know how they can access business opportunities and tenders from Council," said Bongile Blose, the unit's Manager of Customer and Supplier Relations.

She said the workshops were prompted partly by complaints from contractors that they were battling to secure tenders to supply goods or services to the City.

There was a, "vast lack of information on tender-

related activities and the contractors' failure to deliver on agreed timeframes, which affected service delivery and tarnished the Municipality's reputation with ratepayers," Blose said.

The workshop would feature experts from the City's Supply Chain Management Unit who would explain the finer points of the tendering and how contractors could access such opportunities.

She said this initiative was piloted in nine wards in 2007, and was now being rolled out to the entire eThekweni region.

For more information on the workshops, call Blose, at 031 311 7153, fax 031 311 7330 or e-mail *blosecb@durban.gov.za*.

mchunu@durban.gov.za

Proposed dates for workshops

Area	Ward	Date
Cliffdale, Inchanga	7	13 March
Newlands East, KwaMashu, New Germany, Clermont, Padfield Park	21	27 March
Pemary Ridge, Resmont, Reservoir Hills	23b	9 April
Wiggins, Bonela, Chesterville	29	30 April
Congella, Albert Park, Esplanade, Maydon Wharf	32	7 May
Thandolwesizwe/ Lindelani, Richmond Farm	38	29 May
KwaMashu E, F, & G	46	12 June
Ntshungwane / Newtown	54	30 June
Amatikwe/ Phola Mission, Etafuleni	56	9 July
Cottonlands/ Tongaat CBD, Wastonia	61	30 July
Shallcross, Chatsworth	71	6 August
Umlazi S&V/ Glebelands	76	27 August
Umlazi F&G	79	10 September
Durban North, Glen Ashley, Virginia, Umngeni	36	8 October
Phoenix Industrial, Greenbury, Stoneridge, C	48	29 October
Queensburgh, Malvern, Ethembeni, Ekuthuleni	63	12 November
Chatsworth, Moorton, Arena Park, Welbedacht	72	30 November

Workshop development boost for Mpumalanga

THE City and the KwaZulu-Natal departments of Economic Development have launched an initiative to empower the people of Mpumalanga and Hammarsdale.

They will host a local economic development open day at Mpumalanga's Elanjeni FET College tomorrow.

Ajiv Maharaj, the City's Project Executive for Economic Development, said: "The day is meant to create hype about local economic development

through a workshop on local economic issues as well as training and demonstration seminars," he said.

People would be shown how to set up a vegetable garden and chicken run, basic tailoring, sewing, knitting, upholstery and other skills.

For more details, contact Arjunan at 031 312 2093 or 082 309 3554, email *trivi@focuspm.co.za* or fax 031 312 5663.

– Mack Makhathini

Free and fair elections

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Nkosinathi Mkhize, a Congress of the People representative, said: "Our party supports the signing of the code because we have nothing to gain from chaotic elections. We undertake to abide by the spirit of the code of conduct."

Inkatha Freedom Party representative Edward Mngadi

said: "I'm here to commit our party and its members to the code of conduct."

"We want to re-iterate what the DA and ANC leaders have committed themselves to campaigning freely, without any intimidation," he said.

□ The Movement Democratic Party will top the ballot sheet and the Minority Front is at the bottom, it was announced at a draw this week.

Help save the planet by switching off

METRO REPORTER

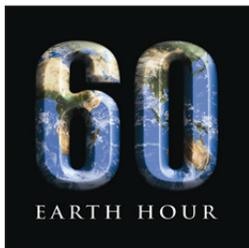
ETHEKWINI Mayor, Councillor Obed Mlaba has committed eThekweni to participating in Earth Hour 2009, a global initiative to raise awareness of the effects of excessive energy consumption on climate change and the future of the Earth.

He said: "The project fits with our current 'Switch Off,

Unplug. Save' campaign to save 10% of electricity consumed by all residents."

Mlaba urged residents to heed the global call to switch off lights and appliances on 28 March, from 8.30pm to 9.30pm.

The global initiative aims to



get more than one billion people in 1 000 cities to turn off their lights for one hour in a show of support for action on climate change.

"When leaders gather in Copenhagen to negotiate a new global deal on climate, they

must feel that the eyes of the world are upon them," said James Leape, Director General of World Wildlife Fund International.

"Earth Hour provides an opportunity for the public to send a powerful signal that they are watching and that they expect action," he said.

To pledge your commitment to Earth Hour visit www.earthhour.org.za.

Invite to Women's Day celebrations

ETHEKWINI women, particularly widows and the disabled, are invited to attend the International Women's Day celebrations at Curries Fountain, on 15 March, at 9am.

Mayor Obed Mlaba and

KwaZulu-Natal Arts and Culture MEC, Weziwe Thusi, will address the guests.

Transport is available. Call Dudu Mokoena at 084 313 3816 or Samukele Khumalo at 083 754 0128 for details. – Metro Reporter