

# Indaba tackles disasters

## SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

THE recent storms, which battered KwaZulu-Natal, have exposed the province's vulnerability to disasters.

But last week a workshop, attended by mayors, traditional leaders, councillors and non-governmental organisations, was held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC to discuss ways of better managing natural disasters.

Central to plans is an inter-ministerial disaster management committee, which was established in 2006 at a disaster summit.

It reports to the Provincial Cabinet on Disaster Management.

It also works to forge partnerships among municipalities so that the province responds to crises in a co-ordinated way.

The MEC for Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mike Mabuyakhulu, stressed to the workshop the importance of an integrated policy to prevent and lessen

the effects of disasters.

Mabuyakhulu, who is the Head of the Disaster Management Committee, said municipalities must include disaster management planning in their integrated development plans (IDP).

He called for a developmental approach to disaster management that involved traditional leaders, women and youth.

Mabuyakhulu said disaster

management plans should include strategies to prevent disasters and evacuate and shelter victims.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier, S'bu Ndebele, said much needed to be done to mitigate disasters.

## Hurricane Katrina

He noted that the unfavourable location of some urban settlements exacerb-

bated storm damage.

New Orleans delegates at the 2006 summit, cited the location of urban settlements, as a major reason for the scale of the disaster in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Ndebele said the same could be said of some areas in KwaZulu-Natal that were particularly vulnerable because of bad planning.

"We have townships that were built on flood plains. It is

therefore understandable that flash floods, which are common in this region, result in many fatalities," he said.

Recent natural disasters have left the province with a repair bill of about R6-billion.

An estimated 8 500 houses have been damaged by storms since November. Of these, about 2 300 needed to be rebuilt.

Big seas and violent storms also caused major damage on the South Coast in 2007.

Veld fires also destroyed homes, and infrastructure, and killed livestock last year.

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# How to lodge a pothole claim

## ROMITA HANUMAN

MOTORISTS whose vehicles have been damaged by potholes are entitled to lodge claims, and if the City is at fault, they will receive payouts, officials have confirmed.

Fathima Khan, of the City's Treasury Department, said claims should include a formal letter claiming damages and include precise details of loss or damages.

But Khan stressed that the request for this information was not "an admission of liability by the City".

After documentation and proof had been submitted, the City would register the claim, acknowledge receipt and then investigate.

After it has been established that the Municipality had acted negligently (or not) the claimant would be informed.

Khan said the City would pay the claim if the circumstances of loss indicated negligence on the part of the Municipality, if the claimant has proved the loss or damage, as well as if the claimant had provided proof of a fair value of the damage.

Khan said: "In claiming for tyre damage, the Municipality reserves the right to apply a

certain percentage for wear or tear, or depreciation.

"The Municipality will from time to time reserve the right to request additional information where necessary."

Khan appealed to claimants to "follow the necessary procedures so that the process can run smoothly".

Follow these steps if you are lodging a claim:

1 Submit your formal letter of demand. It must include:

Date and time of

loss;

Place of incident;

Circumstances of loss;

What was lost or

damaged;

How old were the

damaged tyres;

Costs of the total claim;

Proof of loss or damages;

Why are you claiming;

and

Do you have insurance

covering the loss, and are you

going to claim from it.

2 Send your claim to:

Insurance Department

At: Thulani Ntuli

251 Anton Lembede Street

Florence Mkhize Building

(6th Floor)

Durban

4001

Or fax 031 311 1540 or e-mail

NtuliThulani@durban.gov.za

hanumanR@durban.gov.za

## Litter Butsers . . .



**THE Municipality-led clean up of Phoenix continued recently with Stonebridge Primary School pupils tackling rubbish dumped in their suburb. Principal Pravin Maharaj said pupils were enthusiastic about the clean up as the school had been plagued by rats and cockroaches which were breeding in the refuse.**

**Pupil Sudipa Deoraj said: 'I am so disappointed at the community for littering next to our school. We should**

**preserve the environment, so I pledge never to litter again.'**

**Krishan Indarjit, an Environmental Health Officer and co-ordinator of the clean up campaign, said the project aimed to raise awareness of illegal dumping in that area. "We hope to invite all primary school children to join us and be part of the programme.**

**The Health and DSW units also plan to implement the Adopt-a-Spot scheme in the area - Siphokazi Ntshangase**

# Report shack farming

## EMMANUEL KLEINBOOE HOUSING MATTERS

THE City's Housing Department has appealed to the public to help it stamp out "shack farming" - the renting out of shacks and space for informal dwellings in backyards.

Many of the culprits have already received RDP houses and should have demolished their shacks. Some continue living in their shacks and rent out their houses, and even apply for new houses.

Housing Department officials called on residents to help "root out such corrupt elements". They said shack farming deprived the genuinely needy of shelter, and an opportunity to realise their dreams of owning a home.

To report shack farming, call the Mpimpa hotline at 0800 202 020.

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Section 2 and 3 of Alienation of Land Act states that contracts for the sale of immovable property, such as land and buildings, must be in writing and must be signed by the seller and buyer.

The Act is intended to create certainty and avoid disputes and malpractice.

Section 2 of the Act states that sale, donation and exchange of land or a house must be contained in deed of alienation.

This is a written document signed by the owner and would-be owner.

The deed of sale should be drafted by a legal professional.

When people are allocated starter or RDP houses, eThekweni Housing Department staff are asked to get the beneficiaries to sign legal documents. The documents contain a pre-emption clause. This forbids the new homeowner from selling the house before five years has passed.

If it happens that a person has no choice but to sell the house, the house must be handed to the KwaZulu-Natal Housing department first.

Anyone who buys an RDP house without a written document and approval by the department commits an illegal action.

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# STREET RENAMING - HONOURING OUR HEROES

## Rick Turner Road

Formerly Francois Road



DR RICHARD Turner, known as Rick to his friends and peers, was a visionary

academic who inspired a generation of young activists and helped the labour movement's resurgence before his assassination in 1978.

Born in 1941, he taught at the then University of Natal, a passionate lecturer pioneering the teaching of radical political philosophy and an advisor to the National Union of South African Students (Nusas).

With the help of Harriet Bolton and others, he encouraged white students to get involved in the organisation of black workers.

Turner was banned with seven Nusas leaders, making

In this, the second part in a new series, the eZasegagasini Metro profiles some of the people behind the new street names

it illegal for him to teach, publish or be quoted.

He continued informally to advise unions and remained in contact with the student leaders.

Two months before his ban was to expire, in January 1978, Turner was gunned down. He died in the arms of his 13-year-old daughter.

## Rodger Sishi Road

Formerly Blair Atholl Road



RODGER Dinga "RD" Sishi was a teacher, businessman, soccer administrator,

Durban councillor, and mayor of Mpumalanga township.

Born in Hammarsdale in 1928, he qualified as a teacher and taught for many years in KwaZulu-Natal and the former Transvaal Provinces.

From 1960 to 1972 he served as the chief administration clerk of the Alexandra township health department.

Sishi was closely associated with soccer. He played the game as a young man and served on the executive committee of the Alexandra and the Transvaal Football Association. From 1972 to 1976, he was the general

manager of the National Professional Soccer League and later became the vice chairman and then chairman of the Professional Soccer League. He was subsequently elected deputy president of the Southern KwaZulu-Natal Football Association, a post he held until his death in 2001.

As a founder member of the Mpumalanga Residents' Association and mayor of Mpumalanga Township, Sishi was dedicated to helping people, particularly the less fortunate.

A prominent ANC member, Sishi was elected as a Durban Metro councillor after 1994.

## Stephen Dlamini Road

Formerly Essenwood Road

BORN in 1913, Stephen Dlamini was a leading trade unionist and member of the the ANC in Natal.



A factory worker, Dlamini rose through trade union ranks to become chairman of the African Textile Worker's Union in the 1950s.

He was an accused in the Treason Trail until charges against him were withdrawn in late 1958. In 1960 he went into hiding and helped to organise demonstrations against the detention of Congress leaders.

In 1961 he was an organiser for the May stay-at-home, called by Nelson Mandela. In 1963 he was imprisoned on Robben Island, and was elected honorary president of the SA Congress of Trade Unions in 1967.

After his release from prison he was banished to a rural reserve.