

Elections: it's time to make our mark

A GREAT philosopher once said that life is what you make it. Our destiny is in our own hands – and we each need to play an active role in shaping it.



Obed Mlaba
eThekweni Mayor

Voting ensures political parties and the people that we vote into office are charged with the task of delivering services to all communities, irrespective of their political affiliation.

The government is non-sectarian when it comes to service delivery.

As voters, we need to approach our various political parties if we are not sure of the code of conduct as stipulated by the Independent Electoral Commission. We should be aware of all the do's and don'ts during the elections.

The stage has now been set – 22 April will be the culmination of a long journey that we started many months ago.

We went to the trouble of registering as voters. Now that we have fulfilled all the requirements, let us go and make our mark so that the party that we have faith in can get a full mandate from the electorate to serve us for the next five years.

Our forefathers and those who participated in the struggle for liberation paved the way for us to participate freely and meaningfully in the shaping our future.

The liberation movements defeated the apartheid regime, opening many avenues that led to the realisation of true democracy. We are now all able to have a say in the running of our country, a right guaranteed in our constitution.

The coming elections are crucial because more and more people are beginning to understand the importance of voting.

We need to go out in our numbers and have our say. It is our democratic right to vote for those leaders who we think will serve the nation with honesty.

Mother grundies must accept change

DURBAN remains South Africa's premier domestic tourist destination. We all know how, during the festive season, our population swells by around a million people. Most are visiting us because of our weather and beaches.



Michael Sutcliffe
eThekweni Manager

Vetch's pier.

They have turned this public land into their own fiefdoms and use all manner of means to try and divert us from our path of not only regenerating and revitalising the

beachfront, but allowing all to access these areas.

They introduce claims, such as the one that climate change will mean the existing beachfront will end up under water. They claim that Vetch's, a wonderful area for snorkelling, will disappear.

They say that the whole area will be eroded away. They claim that development pits ratepayers against the City – not saying it is only a small number of ratepayers who hold such narrow views.

Tourists

We all know that change is difficult for some to accept, but I would really encourage these mother grundies to accept that we must change to become a city serving all its residents and the growing number of tourists who visit us each year.

We cannot allow tiny bastions of privilege, using public resources for their own benefit, to continue to have their way.

At the same time, I assure everyone that places like Vetch's will remain and everyone will still be able to access the site and go snorkelling there.

They will have access to an even better beach around Vetch's. And, they will be able to walk from Blue Lagoon to the harbour entrance on a wide promenade, which we can't do now.

That will be wonderful for all the people of our city. Let's join hands as we enhance this public amenity. Change is difficult, but if we all embrace it, it certainly makes you even more committed to our beautiful city and country.

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION



NO, A ZEBRA hasn't escaped from a nature reserve. The animal is actually a sculpture made from water, paper and dishwashing liquid. It's the handiwork of KwaMashu resident Simon Mthethwa and is so life-like that it's hardly surprising that his garden has become a local landmark. Send your Durban photos to eZasegasini Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4001, or e-mail naidothrusha@durban.gov.za and we will publish the best high-resolution photos

Picture: JESSIE SINGH

LETTERS

Clean up needed outside DUT

I READ about your iTrump campaign to clean up filth and litter in the city, and commend the Municipality on this initiative.

I would like to inform you of a similar problem in the public areas around the Durban University of Technology, Berea.

I work at the Ritson Road campus and the amount of litter and broken bottles strewn on the verge outside is disgusting and does not portray a good image of this tertiary institution.

There don't seem to be enough dustbins in the area, which I'm sure, could be fixed by the Municipality. This rubbish needs to be collected by your waste

removal service on a more regular basis. DUT students also need to be educated on the cons of littering, perhaps with an awareness campaign.

As for the broken bottles, the Municipality could put glass recycling bins on site.

There is a small play area with a seesaw, slide and swings opposite the campus. These do not seem to be used as there are no kids in the area, and the grass is knee-high and unkept. Maybe the playground items could be relocated to another area frequented by small children.

Also, the grass could be cut regularly and benches placed to

turn this place into a public square for DUT students to use for recreation.

The pavement at the corner of the Ritson Road campus consists of sand and mud. When it rains, this turns into a quagmire. It needs to be repaired.

BRONWEN HANES
Kloof

THIS letter has been sent to the City's Cleansing and Solid Waste unit (DSW).

We hope the department will consider the writer's suggestions in future clean-up operations in the area. – Editor

Will Umhlanga get new pipes, and when?

MY HOUSE was flooded during the heavy rains and storms that battered Durban more than a year ago. Many of our water pipes were swept away.

I have been reading notices from eThekweni Water from time to time and they have given me hope that we may get some new pipes in our part of Umhlanga.

In a recent edition of *eZasegasini Metro*, Alan Kee, Project Executive at eThekweni Water, says they are halfway through the pipe replacement project due for completion in July next year. Could you let us know if we are scheduled to be re-piped and if so, when?

Here's hoping to receive some good news.

UMHLANGA Rocks is definitely in line for pipe replacement.

However, please be advised that the construction company working on the pipe project will only reach your area later this year.

Once there, they will first have to dig proving slots to confirm the type of pipe under the ground in your area and where it lies in relation to the other services.

This particular project is only replacing undipped asbestos cement (AC) pipes of 160mm or less in diameter.

I hope this answers your query. Please contact me if I can assist you in the future.

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JOHN BRADSHAW
Umhlanga

Pavement woes

WHO is responsible for the upkeep of pavements in the city?

Street sweepers from Durban Solid Waste say pavements are the responsibility of building owners, but building caretakers say street sweepers should clean them.

We are left with a filthy slum of a beachfront and not a single person accountable for it.

L DAVIS
Snell Parade

DURBAN Solid Waste sweeps the pavements from the building line to and including the gutter.

However, there are exceptions. When a building is set back from the building line, we will clear up to the edge of property boundary. If the writer has a specific problem this may require an on-site meeting to establish the extent of our area of cleaning.

KEITH MCKINNON
Durban Solid Waste