

Blaze devastates family

NONDU NGCONGO

THE Dlamini, an extended family of 20 from the Sago area in KwaNdengezi, are now sleeping in one bedroom and a rondavel kitchen after their house burnt down last Monday morning.

Ward 12 Councillor Nqola Ngcobo is appealing to the public to help the family.

"I am calling on businessmen or anyone who can help this family. The situation is very bad for them," said Ngcobo.

Head of the household, Dorin Dlamini, who shares the home with seven children and grandchildren, said they

had lost nearly everything in the fire, which started after the electricity went off at 5.30am on Monday, while the children were preparing for school.

Dlamini, 53, said, "The meter card was finished and we used candles.

"I normally take two children to the bus stop early as they attend school in Pine-town, and I left the others preparing."

On returning Dlamini heard the neighbours screaming and calling her – the family's 10-room house was ablaze.

"I wanted to enter the house and save my furniture and clothes, but my neighbours held me back because the

house was burning and there were lots of flames," said Dlamini.

Apparently, the family's youngest child had been trying to identify his uniform in the wardrobe and had held a candle too close and set the clothes on fire. Not noticing this, though, he had closed the wardrobe.

Sole breadwinner

Dlamini does not have a job and the family's sole breadwinner, her eldest daughter, a teacher, who built the house and furnished it for her family.

The daughter was in hospital at the time of the fire and

the news has hit her hard.

"I didn't know how to break it to her. It was painful. The news did not sit well and that resulted in her blood pressure going up," said Dlamini.

The family have lost nearly all their possessions including two televisions, refrigerators, a DSTV decoder, couches, six double beds, school books and uniforms, food and clothes.

Neighbours and colleagues of the eldest daughter have rallied to the family's aid, and have brought them clothes and school uniforms.

If you can help, call Ngcobo at 073 192 7790.

ngcongong@durban.gov.za



GRASSROOTS INITIATIVE: A mini hockey tournament at the New Centre Sports Field in Newlands West was held recently to nurture interest in the game

Picture: ROMITA HANUMAN

Hockey tourney unearths talent

ROMITA HANUMAN

A MINI hockey tournament for children was held at the New Centre Sports Field in Newlands last week.

Girls and boys teams from Inanda, Ntuzuma, Kwamashu, Umbilo and Cato Manor competed in U10, U12 and U13 age groups.

Lala Nzuzo, Sports Officer

for the Sport and Recreation Development Department, said hockey had not received much recognition in the past, especially in rural or previously disadvantaged areas.

"But it is slowly growing. Children are really taking an interest in it," Nzuzo said.

Coaching clinics started two years ago, twice a month and

on weekends. KZN Hockey and some schools sponsored the equipment.

Nathi Ngubane, of KZN Hockey, said the sport, "diverts them from mischievous activities and keeps them fit and healthy. It encourages them to focus on school and sport.

"The kids look very promising, we have identified

a lot of talent. Two boys have even received scholarships." Ngubane said children saw many similarities between hockey and soccer.

Under 10 player, Sibusiso Ngcobo, said, "It is a good sport and I enjoy playing it. I see myself playing for the national team when I am older."

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Cricket kit for Umgababa school

ANDILE MNYANDU and SWAZI DLAMINI

CRICKET kit was recently donated to Umnini Primary, in Umgababa, as part of efforts to boost the area which have been ravished by crime.

The donation was made by the Municipality's Sport and Recreation Development Department and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation.

The kit included balls, cricket bats and pads. Umgababa proportional representation Councillor Phumzile Hlengwa said she was grateful to the government for sponsoring the equipment and hoped it would help stem the decline in extra mural activities in the area.

Nishan Sewkumar, of the Arts, Culture, Sport and Rec-

reation Department, said they would train teachers to coach school cricket.

Pupils and teachers were delighted with the donation and appealed for more support so they could play other sports too.

Yakhumuzi Mngadi, the school's Head of Department, said, "The equipment will help children and the community. It will keep them away from crime."

Mngadi appealed to teachers and parents to play a more active role in their children's lives, including supporting them at weekend sport events.

Ndumiso Shange, an Umnini Primary pupil, said, "I am excited that I will learn to play cricket and am looking forward to becoming the next Makhaya Ntini."

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SOHANA SINGH

THE new Planning and Development Act comes into effect in KwaZulu-Natal on 1 April.

The Municipality's Manager of Land Use Management, Lekha Allopi, said her unit's staff had been trained to manage the new process and assist the public.

"This Act will change the way the Municipality deals with development applications.

"It is a piece of legislation that insists on integrated decision-making by municipalities and is in keeping with the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000."

She asked the public to bear with officials over the next few weeks, as new computer systems and documentation would be introduced.

The good news is that there will now be just a single

application form for all planning applications.

The new law will apply to any planning application submitted from 1 April.

Applications currently in the system and submitted until 31 March will follow the Town Planning Ordinance, 1949 (as amended) in terms of process and procedure.

Applicants wanting to submit any type of planning application after 1 April will first have to consult with the professional staff at the Planning counters within the five regions.

After this initial consultation, applicants will be informed of the new process to be followed. Various process such as subdivision of land, the alteration, suspension or restriction of Conditions of Title and how land outside scheme areas are dealt with

now fall under the control of

municipalities in KZN.

In terms of due process, applicants will continue to advertise their proposals and notify persons within a 100m radius of all the site boundaries. However, with the first amendments possibly going through in July 2010, after which this requirement for the 100m will be deleted.

Objections

Objectors would still be allowed the 30-day objection period in the event of an application being advertised for public comment.

The Act makes provision for public meetings and public hearings, details of which will be made available soon.

The Act makes provision for the applicant to amend the application as many times as he deems necessary.

While this is a way to

circumvent possible appeals, the time period for decision-making is increased.

All applications requiring Record of Decisions, Traffic Impact Assessments, Stormwater Management Plans, bulk services agreements or any other strategic response by the Council, will have to be resolved first before the planning applications are accepted by the Branch.

To assist the public with the new processes and procedures, information leaflets designed by the Province have already been placed in each Regional office.

The Town Planning Ordinance, 1949 (Act 27 of 1949) (as amended) will be phased out by July.

For more information, call Nicole Govender at 031 311 7790.

singhsohana@durban.gov.za

CONTACTS

Aids Helpline

0800 012 322

Ambulance (public)

10177

Ambulance (private)

082 911

Air Pollution

031 311 3555

O/H 8am – 4pm, Mon – Fri

A/H contact

Emergency Services

031 361 0000

Beaches and Recreation Facilities

031 335 3700

O/H 7.30am – 6pm

Development Planning

031 311 7883

O/H 7am – 4.30pm

Mon – Fri

Sub division

Rezoning

Special consent

Development Management

031 311 7881

Building inspectorate

Plans submissions

Enforcement

Advertising and Signage

031 311 7055

Environment

031 311 7875

Engineering Services Centre

080 131 3013

O/H 24hrs, 7 days a week

Road repairs

Stormwater

Blockages/repairs

Replacement of

manhole covers

Repairs of guardrails and

roadside fencing

Sidewalk and kerb repairs

Sewer repairs/blockages

Road marking and

Street signs

Water reconnections/

Accounts

Faulty traffic signal

Flooding coastal

Infrastructure

Water faults

Water pollution

Water account queries

SMS: 083 707 3013

Fax: 031 311 8220

Mxit: 083 707 3013

Email: eservices@dmws

.durban.gov.za

Revenue Call Centre

031 328 1200

O/H 7.30am to 4.30pm,

Mon to Fri

and 7.30 – 11.30 on Sat

Rates

Electricity

Water Accounts

Emergency Services

031 361 0000

O/H 24Hrs, 7 Days a week:

- Fire

- Disaster Management

- Metro Police

Electricity Call Centre

080 131 3111

O/H 24Hrs, 7 days a week

Faults and breakdowns

Fax: 031 328 1050

Street lights

Illegal connections

Cable theft

031 311 9611

Health

031 311 3555

O/H 7am - 4.30pm Mon to

Fri

A/H contact Emergency

Services

Air pollution

Environmental noise

Illegal dumping

Food safety

Communicable diseases

Hazardous chemical

Substances

Vector Control (mosquitoes,

flies, rats, etc)

Illegal dumping

031 311 8804

O/H 7:30am – 4pm,

Mon to Fri

Refuse Removal

031 311 8824

O/H 7.30am – 4pm,

Mon to Fri

Removal of dead animals

031 311 8809

Parks, Leisure and Cemeteries

031 201 1303

O/H 7.30am – 4pm,

Mon to Fri

Verge and grass

maintenance

Fallen and trimming of trees

after hours

080 131 3013

Ombudsperson and Head Investigations

080 020 2020

Reporting fraud, corruption

and maladministration in the

Municipality:

Ombudsperson@durban.gov.za

Fax 031 311 4002

Regional Centres (Sizakala)

080 033 1011

O/H 7.30am – 4pm, Mon to

Fri, 8am to 11am Sat

080 033 1011

One Stop Shops access/

payments for council

services 031 311 6101

Switchboard

031 311 1111

O/H 7.30am – 5pm, Mon – Fri