



CITY OF
uMHLATHUZE
VISION INTO ACTION

uMhlathuze Wami

The official newsletter of the
City of uMhlathuze **June 2014**

Department of Finance launches e-uMhlathuze website

The City's Department of Finance is in the process of finalising and launching several innovative and useful products aimed at improving the convenience of services offered to customers and reducing municipal queues.

The first of these is a dedicated website, e-uMhlathuze, which will go 'live' to the public by the end of June and offers free online services to home owners, companies, tenants and property management agents.

Once customers are registered on the website they will be able to electronically update their profile information, log queries, provide feedback and select the email functionality if they prefer to receive monthly statements electronically. Initially only accounts dated back to April 2014 will be available but once sufficient time has passed customers will be able to access a six-month history of their Municipal account statements in pdf format.

Most importantly, customers will be able to make payments from the e-uMhlathuze website. While this will have the advantage of reducing cash on hand by the Municipality, it will also provide customers with an immediate proof of payment.



Importantly e-uMhlathuze offers customers two options of making payments. By selecting the "Once off payment instruction", customers will be able to make a regular payment by EFT (electronic fund transfer), which requires the customers to physically fax or email proof of payment. However the e-uMhlathuze website also has a payment portal whereby Nedbank and Standard Bank customers can link directly with the Internet banking site of their bank and the payment will reflect immediately. Currently real-time payment reflection is only available to those banking with Standard Bank and Nedbank but the Department of Finance is working with other major banks to extend the service.

Real-time payment reflection is geared to improve service delivery and will enable the Municipality to reconnect customers faster in the case of disconnected services.

The Department is planning further enhancements to e-uMhlathuze, which will be introduced as phase 2 of the project. Smart phone compatibility will be one feature, with a customer validation tool to enable the Municipality to connect with customers via SMS and email. In this way customers will be able to receive account balances and payment due date notifications.

In the future, the Department would also like to include 'e-Wallet payments' for customers with cell phones (non-smart phones) in the traditional areas to better cope with the increased footprint in those areas.

City publishes glossy new Annual Review

The City's Annual Review for the 2012/2013 financial year has been published by Artworks Communications in Durban and three hundred copies have been delivered to the City of uMhlathuze, which will be distributed to key stakeholders, including business and government departments.

Importantly the document is compliant with legislation and adheres to the new format outlined by National Treasury. It is also the City's first Annual Review making use of the new logo and corporate colours.

Those interested in viewing the Annual Review are able to access an electronic copy by visiting the City of uMhlathuze website, www.umhlathuze.gov.za.

Mayor Elphas Mbatha receives the first copy of the recently published City of uMhlathuze Annual Review.



IDolobha Lihlela Ukufaka Amamitha Ezindaweni Zasemakhaya

Izindawo zasemakhaya yizona zindawo uMasipala asezibheka njengezifanele ukubhekelelwa kanti uMnyango wezezeMali weDolobha usuwenze iCebo lokufaka amaMitha eziNdaweni zaseMakhaya njengenxenye yeNdlela yokuGqugquzela ukuQoqwa kwemali enhloso yayo ukuqiniseka ukuthi yonke imizi ifakwa amamitha.

Embikweni owethulelwa iKomiti Eliphezulu loMkhandlu kwathiwa abantu basemakhaya abangabeDolobha babalelwa kuma 158 146 okungama 47% wenani labantu bonke beDolobha lokho okwenza izindawo zasemakhaya zibe yingxenye ebalulekile kuMasipala. Ngokunjalo ukufaka amamitha ezindaweni zasemakhaya kuveza ithuba elihle lokugqugquzela ukuqoqwa kwentela kaMasipala kanti kuyindlela eyithuba kuMasipala ukuze afeze lenhloso yakhe.

ICebo lokufakwa kwamaMitha eziNdaweni zaseMakhaya lihlase ukuqiniseka ngokuthi amakhasimende ahlala ezindaweni zasemakhaya abenesiko-mpilo elifanele nanokuthi lingathikamezeki lelisebo kepha lisimame. Ngokunjalo lizonika uMasipala ithuba lokuba aqikelele ukunqandwa kokumoseka kwamanzi ngaleyondlela kuncishiswe amathuba ezindleko zokulahlekelwa yimali yentela.

Indlela efanele yokukhokhisa izofezeka kanti kuzoqiniseka iqophelo eliphezulu lezinga lokuhlinzekwa kwemisebenzi esimeme nokubhekelela umthamo owenyukayo wezidingo zemisebenzi yamakhasimende amasha.

KwaDube

NgokoHlelo oluDidiyelwe lweNtuthuko indawo yesizwe sakwaDube yiyonandawo yasemakhaya enkulu kunazonke enabantu abangama 52 239. Umsebenzi wokufaka kwamamitha angama 4100 wawuhambisana nokubhaliswa kwamakhasimende kusukela ekuqaleni kukaMarch kuya ekupheleni kukaMay. UMnyango wezezeMali uzokwenyusa imali eyidiphozi kuma-akhawunti omuntu ngamunye ngoJune endaweni.

I-akhawunti yokuqala yaba ekuqaleni kukaJune ngoba amakhasimende alendawo angaphansi kohlelo lwenkokhelo

yaseSikhaleni okumele ikhokhwe ngomhlaka 30 nyangazonke. Indlela enqala yokuqoqwa kwezimali kulindlelele ukuba iqale ngo-August 2014 lapho uMnyango ucabanga ukuthi ama-akhawunti azobe asekhule ngokwanele ukuthi izikweleti zizobe sezidinga ukuqoqwa ngobuchwepheshe obuzifanele.

KwaBhejane

Indawo yakwaBhejane inabantu abangama 24 172 kanti yiyonandawo yasemakhaya yokuqala eyafakelwa amamitha nguMasipala. Lomsebenzi waphela ngoDecember 2007 kodwa kwabanezinkinga eziningi emva kwalokho. INgxenye yokwaMukelwa kweziMali kwadingeka ukuba iqashe abantu ukubhalisa amakhasimende ukuze avulelwe ama-akhawunti kanti kwabanjwa imihlangano yomphakathi eminingi ukuba kufundiswe amakhasimende.

Lendawo yindawo yokuqala lapho indlela yokuqikelela ukubuyiswa kwezikweleti isebenza khona ngokugcwele ikakhulukazi ukuncishiswa kwamanzi ngenxa yokungakhokhelwa kokuhlinzekwa kwezidingo-nqangi. Okwamanje kunamamitha angama 4344 anama-akhawunti akhokhelwa nyangazonke ngokohlelo loMkhandlu-Dolobha lwezimali. Yonke lendawo isiyafakelwa amapayipi ngaphandle kwezindawo ezimbalwa lapho amakhasimende akha khona umsebenzi usuwenziwe.

KwaMadlebe

Indawo yaKwaMadlebe inabantu abangama 48 977 kanti iyindawo yesibili ukuba ifakelwe amanzi yiDolobha. Lomsebenzi waphela ngo 2008 kanti izinkinga zabangaphezu kwezaKwaBhejane ngenxa yokuvuza kwamamitha. Ngo2011 amamitha amaningi kwadingeka ukuba alungiswe noma kufakwe amanye amasha.

Izikweleti zacinywa ngo-October 2011 kulawoma-akhawunti ayeqalwe ngosuku lokufakwa kwamamitha kuya kuSeptember 2010 ngaleyondlela ama-akhawunti aqalwa ku R0,00. Ukucinywa kwezikweleti kwesibili kwenziwa ngoJune 2012 kulezozikweleti ezazisuka ku-October 2010 kuya ku-April 2012. Amakhasimende asenomthwalo wokukhokhela zonke izikweleti ezenzeka

emva kokucinywa kwezesibili ngaphandle kwalawomakhasimende asalokhu ezobika ukuvuza kwamamitha okungakaze kulungiswe. Kunamamitha angama 7075 anama-akhawunti akhokhelwa nyangazonke ngokohlelo loMkhandlu-Dolobha lwezimali kulendawo.

KwaMkhwanazi

Indawo yakwaMkhwanazi inabantu abangama 32 758 kanti yehlukaniswe ngeNyakatho yakwaMkhwanazi kanye neNingizimu yaKwaMkhwanazi. Ukufakwa kwamamitha sekuyenziwa eNingizimu yakwaMkhwanazi lapho kunamamitha angama 1796 akhokhelwa nyangazonke.

Inqubekela-phambili eNyakatho yakwa Mkhwanazi ihamba kancane ngoba kunamamitha angama 607 kuphela akhokhelwayo. Ukuxhunywama amapayipi kulendawo akukadonselwa emagcekeni emizi kanti amanzi aselethwa ngamaloli anamathange.

Izinselelo ezijwayelekile mayelana namamitha ezindaweni zasemakhaya yilezi:

- Ukuxega kohlelo lolwazi neminingwane.
- Ukungabibikho kwamakheli alapho amakhasimende ehlala khona noma amakheli eposi eziNdaweni zaseMakhaya.
- Ukuxega kokuhlelela ikusasa koMaziphathe bezindawo zasemakhaya

E: *Traditional Areas are a new risk focus area for the Municipality and the City's Department of Finance has developed a Traditional Areas Metering Plan as part of a Revenue Enhancement Strategy, which aims to ensure that all households are metered.*

Did you know?

The vending commission for third party electricity vending is for the Municipality's account. This means that all third party electricity vending - itronenergy.co.za website, Internet banking sites or at appointed supermarkets and garages - is now the same price as pre-paid electricity purchased directly from the Municipality, i.e. there is no vending charge.

IDolobha Libambisana NeTronox Ukuvula Isikhungo Somphakathi KwaMkhwanazi

Ukuze kuvunjululwe okuningi okumumethwe yilelizwe kumele abamabhizinisi, uhulumeni nemiphakathi basebenze ngokubambisana.

Ngenkathi evula iNqandi Multi-purpose Centre eSigcemeni 20, eSikhaleni, iMeya yeDolobha laseMhlathuze, u-Elphas Mbatha wathi lomsebenzi uyisibonelo esisobala yezinhloko zonke ezisebenza ndawonye ukufeza injongo ethinta zonke lezinhloko.

UMeya Mbatha wathi, "AbakwaTronox KZN Sands bahlonza isidingo seholo lomphakathi endaweni yakwaMkhwanazi."



Ngenkathi kuvulwa ngokosemthethweni nokunikezelwa kweNqandi MultiPurpose Centre endaweni yesizwe sakwaMkhwanazi (kusukela kwesobunxele) yinkosi uMthembu yoMaziphathe waseSomopho; yiMeya u-Elphas Mbatha, yiMeneja-Jikelele yakwaTronox uNeels Oosterhuis; yinkosi uMkhwanazi yoMaziphathe wesizwe sakwaMkhwanazi kanye noSomlomo uMvuseini Mnqayi.



Ubhazabhaza weholo eNqandi MultiPurpose Centre elinendlu yokuphekela nokanye lizosetshenziswa njengendawo yokuhlalanga yomphakathi, ukwenza imigubho kanye nemihlangano yamasonto.

Babe sebevakashela uMasipala ukuqiniseka ukuthi umbono namapulani abo ayahlangabezana nakaMasipala." Waqhuba wathi, "Kuningi okumele kwenziwe ukuthuthukisa ezomnotho kuzozonke izindawo zeDolobha kanti lomsebenzi uzosiza izimpilo zabantu abakhelene nalemphakathi."

Lesisikhungo sineholo, indlu yokuphekela enkulu, indawo yokugcina impahla, igumbi lokuyala kanye nendawo yokufundela abafundi abenza izifundo zabo zangesese emva kwesikole kanye nenkulisa.

IMeneja-Jikelele yakwaTronox KZN Sands, uNeels Oosterhuis, wathi ngaphandle nje kwemihlangano yomphakathi leliholo liyobuya lisetshenziselwe imihlangano yezamasonto. Waqhuba wathi, "ITronox ibuye yaxhasa ifenisha yalesisikhungo ukuze isetshenziswe masinya emva kokunikezelwa kwaso."

UMnuz. Oosterhuis wathi kuzobunjwa iKomidi lesikhungo, wanezelela ngokuthi ezinye izakhawo ezikulesisiza zizokwenziwa ngcono bese zisetshenziswa njengamahovisi okuphatha, ukubhuka kanye nokuphathwa kwesikhungo.

Waqhuba wathi, "AbakwaTronox bazolukhu bezibandakanyile ngokubunjwa kwekomidi lokugcina nanokusiza amalungu alo ukuba aqonde ukubaluleka kokunakekela isikhungo nanosiphatha njengebhizinisi elisimeme."

UMnuz. u-Oosterhuis waphetha ngokuthi inkampani iyaziqhenya ngokuthi usonkontileka wezokwakha wasendaweni, iTSP Construction, ephethwe nguThabani Mjadu yenza umsebenzi oncomekayo ngokwakha ize isiqede isakhiwo.

Wathi, "Kuyingxenywe yomthethomgomo wakwaTronox ukwesekela osonkontileka bezindawo zasemakhaya abakwaziyo ukufeza izimiso nemigomo ebekiwe."

Ibonga abakwaTronox ngokuzinikela kwabo ukusiza imiphakathi yoMaziphathe wesizwe sakwaMkhwanazi, Inkosi M.Mkhwanazi yathi bona banecebo elibanzi ngendawo yakwaMkhwanazi.

Inkosi yathi, "Sinezinhlelo zemisebenzi yokuletha ushintsho abantu abafuna ukulibona endaweni yakithi. Siyakuthokozela ukuthi uMnuz Oosterhuis ahloniphe imiphakathi namakhosi ezindawo zalapho iTronox isebenza khona. Lesisikhungo sizosiza izingane zomphakathi sibuye sizikhuthaze ukuba zifundele imisebenzi enonhlonze njengezobunjiniyela, ukwelapha, ezemfundo nezokuphepha."

E: *The City joined Tronox KZN to celebrate the opening of a community centre in Mkhwanazi.*

Municipality to present Empangeni CBD Revitalisation Plan to stakeholders

Council has adopted the approach outlined in the Empangeni CBD Revitalisation Plan and the Municipality will now present the plan to key external stakeholders, including corporate business, government departments/entities, the informal business sector and public transport organisations, to obtain project support and buy-in.

The Empangeni CBD Revitalisation Plan aims to address the concerns of local residents and business owners that the town has not kept up with the changing times, negatively affecting the town's growth in recent years. The plan aims to accommodate informal traders, business, commuters and pedestrians to operate more effectively, while significantly reducing traffic in the town centre.

Empangeni plays a major role in the regional economy as a service centre, with higher order services including an established service core including: transportation, administration, business, storage, institutional, educational and a strong light industrial component all being present. Commercial floor space currently exceeds 72 000 square metres in the City Centre.

The Empangeni CBD Revitalisation project is supported by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, which appointed Iyer Design Studio, in November 2012, to assist with the preparation of the Empangeni CBD Revitalisation Plan for the uMhlathuze Municipality.

The Empangeni CBD Revitalisation Plan was finalised in July 2013 and was approved by KZN CoGTA towards the end of last year. The plan outlines the current status of the town and the proposed project phases. The plan outlines 25 key projects/interventions that are to be implemented by the Municipality and external stakeholders.

The implementation plan of the Empangeni CBD Revitalisation Plan proposes phasing projects over the short, medium and long term depending on the availability of funds and other related resources.

In addition a number of projects, requiring limited funding, have been identified. These projects and actions are generally of a planning and urban management nature and can be implemented immediately to ensure that the momentum achieved through the Empangeni CBD Revitalisation planning process is maintained.

Short Term Actions

The main focus of the short term actions is to develop the relationship and obtain buy-in from the key stakeholders on specific strategies and initiating the implementation. The critical capital development project in this phase is the provision of a proposed additional public transport facility. This phase involves laying down the ground work for medium to long term projects. Milestones contained in this phase should be achieved by the end of 2015.

Medium Term Actions

The activities contained in this phase are capital investments requiring financial resources. These projects are critical to make the town centre function effectively. The main focus area is public transport planning and provision of improved infrastructure as well as urban design improvements.

Long Term Actions

Projects/activities contained in this phase are not of critical importance at present but they have an impact on the long term functionality of the Empangeni town centre. These projects/activities are required to accommodate the future growth and development of the CBD.

0800 222 827

City's Call Centre working effectively

The City's 24-hour Call Centre is working effectively and officials have requested that the toll free number, 0800 222 827, be used at all times by customers to report all incidents of interruptions to Municipal services, including:

- Water,
- Sanitation,
- Electricity,
- Roads,
- Storm water,
- Street lights,
- Building and structures

Importantly, the City's Call Centre incorporates a central database where all reported cases are logged in and monitored for progress. In addition, it makes it easier for the Municipality to monitor the activities of personnel in respect of approving payment for overtime.

The Municipality has also added a function of generating Works Orders simultaneously with reference numbers, thereby ensuring that the respective Municipal depots receive the necessary paperwork immediately.

0800 222 827

Council approves Mid Term Revenue Expenditure Framework

The Executive Committee approved the Medium Term Revenue Expenditure Framework (MTREF) in May, which includes capital projects that will not be completed during the 2013/2014 financial year and will need to be rolled over to the 2014/2015 MTREF.

In 2013/2014 the City's capital funding was budgeted at R467 million, including R122 million in borrowings and R194 million in National Government funds. However, R160 million of this is to be rolled over and added to the R259 million capital funding for the 2014/2015 financial year.

The R160 million roll over comprises projects related to electrical supply to the value of R40 million, R22 million for water and sanitation projects, R11 million for transport, road and storm water projects as well as over R40 million for projects in the Department of Community Services relating to health and public safety and recreation and environmental services.

While the budget process has been completed and is compliant with legislation, it was noted that the public participation process was constrained due to the imminent elections. National Treasury has found the City's budget to be credible, relevant, funded and sustainable.

However, several councillors all raised concern with the slow rate with which the City spends its capital budget and questioned whether the City has the capacity to spend the budget within time and provide essential service delivery.

One councillor commented: "When we previously had an issue with slow spending, we identified poor planning as the main problem but this is still continuing. A crack team from Province was deployed to help us with our spending but what progress have we seen? We have identified the problem but we are not making progress, which is a real concern."

"There are too many roll overs. We mustn't get comfortable with roll overs," said another, who expressed concern about Municipal Infrastructure Grant funds. "Government departments are going to get tired of us not spending our MIG funding and will not give the funds back to us, which will be a major problem."

Deputy Mayor, Zethu Gumbe said that the City was supposed to be one of the best municipalities in the country and yet many others are able to spend their budget much quicker. "It is very discouraging and the Municipal Manager and Chief Finance Officer need to be honest with us. If the Municipality is not competent enough then tell us so that we are aware."

Acting CFO, Hilton Renald reported that departments are making more effort to plan more effectively using the tools that are available to them. At the same time the Department of Financial Services is working to make the planning tools more user friendly and improve their integrity as planning tools.

The Acting Deputy Municipal Manager of Infrastructure and Technical Services, Tumelo Gopane, gave feedback saying that his department has the capacity to spend the capital budget. He added that the rate of expenditure should be above 50% by the end of June 2014 and that all electrical projects and most of the water projects for 2014/2015 were already in the bid process.

However, Mayor Elphas Mbatha said that municipal officials responsible for service delivery should consider themselves "on notice" and issued a stern warning that Council is "getting very impatient" with the slow rate of expenditure on capital projects and the resultant lack of service delivery to communities.

"If we don't see improvement on the ground, what you report to us in meetings is cold comfort. Every department has roll over projects. Why? This situation is not acceptable and everyone should be aware that they come to work to perform," he said.

Former Deputy Municipal Manager appointed as Minister

A former Deputy Municipal Manager of the City of uMhlathuze, Nkosinathi Nhleko, has been appointed as Minister of Police in President Jacob Zuma's new Cabinet, announced at the end of May.

At an Executive Committee meeting shortly after the announcement, Mayor Elphas Mbatha congratulated the President, Deputy President, Ministers and the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal on their appointments. He then made special reference to Minister Nhleko and his ties with the City. "We hope that he will be able to address the levels of crime in our country so that everyone can feel safe in their homes," he said.

Minister Nhleko was appointed Deputy Municipal Manager at the Municipality at the end of 2008 and was Acting Municipal Manager at the end of 2009 when he resigned to take up the position of Director General of government's Special Anti-Corruption Unit.

He has also served in Parliament as chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration, chairperson of the ANC caucus, African National Congress chief whip, and member of the Judicial Service Commission as well as Director General in the Department of Labour.



The New Minister of Police, Nkosinathi Nhleko, during his time with the City of uMhlathuze. (file photo)

Public invited to MPAC, Exco and Council meetings

The public are reminded that they are welcome to attend meetings of the Executive Committee and Council, which are held in the Council Chambers of the Richards Bay Civic Centre.

Executive Committee meetings commence at 10:00am and those of Council at 17:00. Scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2014 are as follows:

Date	Meeting
Tuesday, 15 July	Executive Committee
Tuesday, 29 July	Executive Committee and Council
Tuesday, 12 August	Executive Committee
Tuesday, 26 August	Executive Committee and Council
Tuesday, 9 September	Executive Committee
Tuesday, 30 September	Executive Committee and Council
Tuesday, 14 October	Executive Committee
Tuesday, 28 October	Executive Committee and Council
Tuesday, 11 November	Executive Committee
Tuesday, 25 November	Executive Committee and Council
Tuesday, 9 December	Executive Committee and Council

In addition, meetings of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee are also open to the public. The balance of meetings scheduled for 2014 will take place on the following dates: 16 July, 13 August, 17 September, 15 October and 12 November. Please contact Sarah Pienaar on 035- 907 5070 to confirm attendance.

The MPAC is an oversight committee with mainly the following primary functions:

- To consider and evaluate the content of the Annual Report and to make recommendations to Council when adopting an oversight report on the Annual Report;
- In order to assist with the conclusion of matters that may not be finalised, information relating to past recommendations made on the Annual Report, must also be reviewed. This relates to current in-year reports, including the quarterly, mid-year and Annual Reports;
- To examine the financial statements and audit reports of the Municipality, and in doing so, the committee must consider improvements from previous statements and reports and must evaluate the extent to which the Audit Committee's and the Auditor General's recommendations have been implemented;
- To promote good governance, transparency and accountability on the use of Municipal resources;
- To recommend or undertake any investigation in its area of responsibility, after reviewing any investigation report already undertaken by the Municipality or the Audit Committee; and
- To perform any other functions assigned to it through a resolution of Council within its area of responsibility.
- The MPAC undertakes and manages similar functions and responsibilities for the Municipality, as undertaken by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the national and provincial legislatures, except for certain powers regarding subpoena of individuals. The MPAC may engage directly with the public and consider public comments when received and is entitled to request for documents or evidence from the Accounting Officer of a Municipality.

Another 'first' for the City

The City of uMhlathuze has been approved and accredited as the first Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal to be a host employer by the Chemical Industries and Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) for the 'fitter' trade.

The City underwent a site evaluation by CHIETA before receiving approval and accreditation. The site evaluation involved the evaluator visiting Council depots, inspecting equipment and tools as well as interviewing Supervisors.

The approval and accreditation will assist the City in up-skilling its communities to become qualified artisans. Increasing artisan development is much needed for the country's economic development.



Municipal employee wage increase within budget

In terms of the multi-term salary and wage agreement reached by the South Africa Local Government Bargaining Council in 2012, municipal employees at the City of uMhlathuze will receive a salary/wage adjustment with effect from 1 July 2014.

The adjustment will be equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) average for the period 1 February 2013 and 31 January 2014, plus 1%, which totals 6,79%. CPI measures changes in the price level of a basket of consumer goods and services commonly purchased by households. Similarly any benefit or conditions of service stipulated in Clause 6.6 of the Collective Agreement shall also increase by the same rate.

This brings the new minimum wage amount to R5 621,43 while the medical aid maximum subsidy will increase from R3 557,65 to R3 618,04. Council, which budgeted for a 7% salary increase on the 2014/2015 Medium Term Revenue Expenditure, has noted the salary/wage adjustments.

Smart ID cards now available at uThungulu office of Home Affairs

Members of the public are invited to visit the uThungulu office of the Department of Home Affairs in Richards Bay to make application for a new smart ID card, which will be rolled out incrementally by the Department over the next few years.

Apart from several high level security features to prevent hacking, the smart ID is designed to help combat identity theft, fraudulent activities related to drivers' licences, social grants, financial institutions as well as insurance.

To apply for a new smart ID card, South African citizens need to bring along their green bar-coded ID. First time applicants need to bring along their birth certificate, proof of address and minors must be accompanied by their parent/s. Permanent residents of South Africa need to bring the green bar-coded ID already in their possession while first time applicants also need to bring along their permanent residence certificate and proof of address.

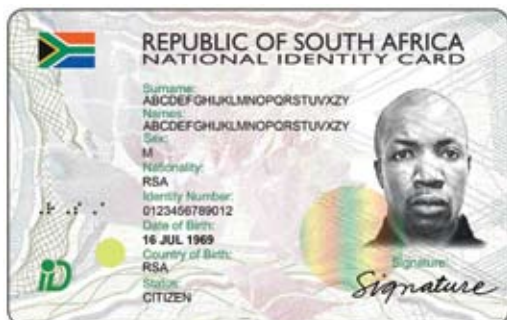
The application procedure involves capturing the applicant's details online and digitally taking the applicant's photograph and fingerprints, which will be recorded for the production of the smart ID.

First time applicants will be issued a smart ID free of charge, however, replacing of a bar-coded ID document will cost R140, the same cost as the current green ID.

It takes about 14 working days from date of application, provided it's a straight forward application meeting all the requirements and applicants will have to present themselves at the Department of Home Affairs office where they applied to collect the smart ID card. The Department will take back the green bar-coded ID book to be cancelled in accordance with the Identification Act.

The Department estimates that the green bar-coded ID document will be phased out over a period of five to seven years.

Source: <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/id-smart-card>



City lends its voice to "Bring back our girls" campaign

At the end of May the City of uMhlathuze joined the global spirit of activism by adding its voice to the "Bring back our girls" campaign, which calls for the release and safe return to their families of over two hundred Nigerian girls, who were abducted by the extremist group Boko Haram, in mid April.

Deputy Mayor of uMhlathuze, Cllr Zethu Gumbi, joined by a group of concerned Municipal employees, led a prayer gathering at the Richards Bay Civic Centre during which she pledged solidarity with the people of Nigeria to "defend and protect vulnerable members of society". She also encouraged people to pray for our children and each other every day.



UMtapolwazi WaseSikhaleni Uzonwethwa

AbakwaLuthabo Construction and Projects banikwe umsebenzi wezinyanga ezine wesamba samaR2,54 ezigidi ukunweba uMtapolwazi.

Ukunikezelwa kwesiza kwenziwa ekuphelelni kukaMay kanti isivumelwano sibandakanya ukunweba umtapolwazi, ukwenezela ngegumbi lokuxoxela, ukulungiswa kwezindlu zangasese nokwakhiwa kwendlu yokuphekela entsha.

E: Luthabo Construction and Projects has been awarded a four-month contract in the amount of R2,54 million for the extension of the eSikhaleni Library.

Current state and capacity of refuse removal fleet analysed

Refuse removal is a daily activity that cannot just be postponed for a day or even worse, a week. Irrespective of weather conditions the City's Waste Management team has to be on the road emptying bins and skips and the refuse removal fleet is an important factor in meeting community expectations as well as legal requirements.

For this reason Council is to consider the purchase of additional new refuse trucks in future budget following an audit analysis that was done of the Waste Management fleet of vehicles. The analysis assessed the condition of the current vehicles, the areas of service, the required number of fleet needed to ensure continued efficient and effective service delivery as well as the financial implications to Council.

The existing fleet of 21 refuse removal vehicles was commissioned to service Ngwelezane, eSikhaleni, eNseleni, Empangeni, Richards Bay and Vulindlela suburbs and business areas.

However, in the new dispensation, areas such as the rural areas that were not previously considered for refuse removal now have to be serviced. There are also a number of developments that have taken place in the past few years that have increased the demand on the fleet. Such developments and areas include Dumisani Makhaye Village (formerly Umhlathuze Village), community skips in rural areas and some suburbs, residential developments around the Richards Bay Civic Centre that were not considered before 2005, school refuse removal services and new business areas such as Five Ways Mall.

The John Ross planned development adjacent to the N2, planned human settlement in Richards Bay and the possibility of servicing certain wards from Ntambanana Municipality following the 2016 elections will further add to the demand.

The current service runs at 100% in the suburbs and at an estimated 49% in the rural areas.

This means that about 51% of the community in rural areas do not have access to a refuse removal service.

An analysis of the status and condition of the current fleet shows the oldest truck is 15 years old, five are 8 years old, three are 6 years old and three are between four and five years old. The other ten were bought in the 2011/2012 financial year to replace older vehicles, however, all have had problems ranging from leaking hydraulic systems to faulty bin/skip lifting hydraulic mechanisms. The report states that "at any given time approximately four or more trucks are out of service".

The current fleet services about 46 300 houses directly and about 18 000 indirectly through skip services and the clearing of illegal dumping. This means each refuse truck services about 571,20 houses per day over a five day period as each house is visited at least once a week and most houses have more than one trolley bin, especially flats and businesses. The fleet will also service community and business skips.

The analysis showed that Waste Management would need an additional fleet of 12 trucks to address the current backlog and a further two trucks for envisaged development and the incorporation of Ntambanana Municipality wards in 2016.

Post 2016 the Department will also review fleet requirements in line with the City's recycling programme.



UMkhandlu-Dolobha Wamukela Umbiko Wenqubekelaphambili Kwezezindlu

UMkhandlu-Dolobha uyamukele inqubekelaphambili esiyenziwe mayelana nesiGaba 7 seDumisane Makhaye Village (eyayaziwa ngoMhlathuze Village phambilini) kusukela ngomhlaka 1 January kuya ku 31 March 2014 kodwa wezwakalisa ukunganeliseki ngokwakha okushaya ngonyawo lonwabo.

Ngombiko owethulelwa uMkhandlu ngoMay, kunezicelo ezingama 510 soxhaso ezavunywwa kulesisikhathi. Nokho ukwakha kuhamba kancane ngoba kuqedwe izindlu ezingama 20 uma kuqhathaniswa nezingama 42 no 61 ezaqedwa ezikhathini ezimbili ezingaphambilini zemibiko.

Isizathu sokwakha okuhamba kancane kwenziwa wukubambezeleka kokuphuthulwa kohla lwabanikazi abafanelekile oluphuma kumahositela.

Okwamanje izindlu zabobonke abanikazi abavumelekile seziqediwe. Umsebenzi wokuqala wawuvumele izindlu ezingama 585 kodwa lesibalo sancishiswa sabangu 547 ngenxa yesimo sendawo esingalungile uma kunezikhukhula. Kwenzelwe abanikazi abayishumi nanye eSigabeni 7 kusuka eSigabeni 3 nabo abanezelelwa eSigabeni 7 somxhaso. Kwakhiwa indlu eyodwa yezimo zesidumo eBrackenham, kwabe sekuba nezindlu ezingama 559.

Kwabe sekwenziwa indawo yokulungisa lomahluko kusuka ku547 kuya ku585 uma sekuhlelelwa iZigaba ezizolandela eziyiZigaba 6 no 8.

E: Council has noted the progress that has been made in respect of Phase 7 of Dumisane Makhaye Village (formerly Umhlathuze Village) for the period 1 January to 31 March 2014 but expressed concern with the slow pace of construction.

Current Transformer (CT) Meter audits planned for all 400V business customers

uMhlathuze Municipality has awarded a contract to a joint venture of Cascade Avenue Trading 150 and Kuntwela Ezansi Ventures in the amount of R775 000 to carry out meter audits for all 400V business customers in the City.

The meter audit is necessary to verify whether metering equipment is still functioning correctly so that the Municipality can confidently bill the customers knowing that meter readings are accurate.

The Electrical Section of the Infrastructure and Technical Services Department has discovered several points where incorrect metering is taking place due to a missing voltage component due to faults, the incorrect replacement of circuit breakers versus the installed current transformers, incorrectly wired currents, and installations needing maintenance as well as tampered and unmetered points.

Such practices have a huge impact on the Municipality's revenue. Metering apparatus at an installation comprises three components and for each missing component the Municipality is losing 33% of revenue at that specific installation. This may not be visible to the Finance Department as the consumption of any customer can fluctuate. While the customer will benefit from this, the Municipality is paying Eskom for the utilised load.

Conversely, in the case of customer configurations that are not standard due to repairs or temporary arrangements that end up being permanent, the customer can be overcharged, which can be challenged and involve the legal authorities.

The meter audit will involve checking the functionality of the meter and the current transformers using specialised equipment, which produces a reading and relevant graphs that determine the correct functionality of the metering equipment.

The project is scheduled to take place from 23 June to 23 September 2014 and is in line with national Standards of Metering (NRS 057), which states that metering apparatus must be audited after a period of time, as per the capacity of supply.

Municipality anticipates big savings with E-Councillors

In a massive cost saving drive, the City of uMhlathuze is no longer printing meeting minutes and agendas for councillors and officials. Instead it has converted councillors to E-Councillors by using a paperless system of uploading electronic documents on memory sticks.

The enthusiasm, with which many councillors have embraced the new system, is encouraging. It was decided to utilise memory sticks as opposed to electronic transmission via 3G due to the size of agendas and the fact that not all councillors reside in areas where reception is guaranteed.

While the benefits of having E-Councillors will only be measured in the coming months, officials anticipate a huge cost benefit as the printing room has traditionally been a very busy area. Over two million photocopies were made during the 2013/2014 financial year, utilising about 1,5 million sheets of paper.

Over three hundred Council and committee meetings are held every financial year by the Municipality as it considers anywhere upwards of 2 500 different agenda items.

The new paperless system is also expected to reduce overtime worked by printing staff, who often have to work late printing last minute items and delivering agendas to councillors.



Keeping up with technology...instead of carrying heavy reams of costly hard copy agendas to meetings, members of the Executive Committee now carry their laptop computers from which they are able to access electronic agendas using pre-loaded memory sticks.

Environmental Health Services to be transferred to uThungulu

The City's Environmental Health Services is to be transferred to the uThungulu District Municipality when the Municipal Health Service Level Agreement, which exists between uThungulu and the City of uMhlathuze, expires at the end of the month (June).

Richards Bay Clean Air Association Monthly Report: April 2014

SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide) Guideline Exceedances

SO₂ is linked with a number of adverse effects on the respiratory system as it is highly soluble and thus readily absorbed by the mucous membranes of the nose and upper respiratory tract. There were no measured exceedances of the NEMAQA daily average standard (48ppb). There was One (1) measured exceedance of the NEMAQA hourly average standard (134ppb) There were four (4) measured exceedances of the NEMAQA 10 minute average standard (191ppb) were recorded at Scorpio in April. The exceedances were apportioned to Foskor.

TRS Odour Threshold Exceedances

TRS is emitted by Mondi and is monitored by the RBCAA at the Central Sports Complex. The most commonly reported health concerns related to TRS substances are nausea and headaches, although each component has its own characteristics and effects. There were no measured exceedances of the WHO 30-minute H₂S Guideline (5.0ppb) There were no measured exceedances of the OME TRS 10-minute health standard. There were Five (5) measured exceedances of the RBCAA 10-minute Target (4.5ppb) were recorded on the 4th, 16th and 28th of April 2014.

PM₁₀ Exceedances

There were no exceedances of the current NEMAQA Daily Standard (120 g/m³) or future NEMAQA Daily Standard (75g/m³) recorded in April 2014.

Air Quality Complaints

There were Twenty Four (24) air quality complaints received during April 2014. Ten (10) complaints were logged during April 2013. Ten (10) complaints related to Sewage Odours and Spills. Five (5) complaints related to Foskor. Three (3) complaints related to BHP Billiton. Three (3) complaints related to Mondi.

For more information contact:

Sandy Camminga (Public Officer)

Tel: 035 -786 0076 Cell: 083 515 2384

Complaints can be logged at: complaints@rbcaa.co.za

Website: www.rbcaa.org.za

In terms of the Municipal Structures Act, as from 1 July 2004, Environmental Health Services became a power and function of District Municipalities within their respective areas.

However, at the beginning of the 2004/2005 financial year, funding from the National Department of Health was not forthcoming to district municipalities and uThungulu District Municipality was not in a position to take transfer of the Environmental Health Services function.

A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was signed between the City and uThungulu, which was effective from 1 May 2005 and expired on 30 June 2011. In terms of this SLA the City was paid an equitable share by uThungulu to perform the service on their behalf.

Prior to the expiry of the SLA, uThungulu indicated that they were not prepared for the transfer of the service, and it was resolved that the City sign a new SLA for a three year period, ending 30 June 2014, when uThungulu would be prepared to effect the transfer.

Within the uThungulu District Municipality there are uMhlathuze and uMlalazi Municipalities as well as KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Health providing Environmental Health Services besides staff employed directly by the District Municipality.

The transfer of Environmental Health Services from the KZN Provincial Health Department to uThungulu was completed in January 2014. In February uThungulu indicated that they intended to take over the function from uMhlathuze when the current SLA expires.

A transfer committee was duly appointed comprising members of uThungulu, uMlalazi and uMhlathuze Municipalities to discuss the logistics of transferring staff, including staff benefits, assets and office accommodation.

At uMhlathuze there are nine staff members, comprising eight Environmental Health Officers and one support staff member who will be affected by the transfer. Six staff members are from the Coastal region based in Richards Bay and three from the Inland region based in Empangeni. The transfer process for staff is not expected to be complicated since both municipalities fall under the same Bargaining Council.

Certain functions will not be transferred, including air pollution, indigent and pauper burials, the enforcement of Nuisance Bylaws and Keeping of Animal Bylaws. The Municipality will ensure that it has adequate staff to ensure a continuation of these services.

Smart fact

Debit and credit cards can now be used by customers to pay their Municipal accounts at any Municipal office.

Museum baan die weg vir Mondi Eisteddfod inskrywings

Jong kunstenaars, van ons plaaslike laer en hoërskole, gaan oor die volgende paar maande die geleentheid kry om hul kunswerke in die kollig te hê wanneer dit by die Empangeni museum uitgestal gaan word as deel van die jaarlikse Mondi Eisteddfod.

Die kunswerke van hoërskool leerders, waaronder skilderye, fotografie en beeldhouwerk is reeds op uitstalling en sal tot aan die einde van Julie die fokuspunt by die Museum wees. Die jaar se inskrywings is propvol talent en beslis die moeite werd om te gaan kyk. Die uitstalling bied werke van Richardsbaai Hoërskool, Empangeni Hoërskool, Grantleigh, Felixton Kollege en Birdsvie Akademie.

Die museum kurator, Me Ildico Kovacs sê die laerskoolinskrywings sal teen die middel van Julie tot middel September by die Museum tentoongestel word.

E: *Young artists will be given an opportunity to shine over the next few months as the Empangeni Museum dedicates its exhibition space to the Mondi Eisteddfod entries from local high school and primary schools.*



Zululand Trade Fair to make a comeback this September

The 26 and 27 September will see an all new Zululand Trade Fair hosted in Richards Bay and, according to the organisers, the Zululand Events Company, the community can look forward to an affordable, safe and secure event targeting all age groups and cultures within our community.

Organisers are hard at work to provide a good balance of quality exhibitions and family entertainment. Planned entertainment will include the traditional fun fair, a DJ competition, live bands, oval track racing and drifting as well as flea market stalls and refreshment outlets.

The exhibition area presents an ideal platform to showcase products and services to a broad cross-section of visitors. It is also a novel and ideal way to interact face-to-face with existing customers and industry role players as well as introduce your brand to new customers.

Exhibition categories include: home décor and appliances, sports and leisure, arts and crafts, fashion and accessories, motor industry, outdoor and garden, technology, tourism, agriculture, education and industrial. Interested exhibitors are encouraged to book early as exhibition there is limited space.

The Zululand Trade Fair also has cost effective sponsorship opportunities available to complement and add value to a company's marketing strategy. Those interested in 'taking your brand beyond your stand' are invited to contact the Zululand Trade Fair team, who are eager to share some ideas with you and discuss how you can leverage maximum value for your sponsorship.

For more information email info@zululandtradefair.co.za or contact Denis on 0833799663, Dean on 0827774861 or Susan on 0861112488.



Important Municipal Telephone Numbers

In case of uncertainty, the main switchboard in Richards Bay can be reached by dialling 035-9075000

- **Building Inspectorate**
Office hours: 035 907 5434/5409/5410
- **Housing**
Office hours: 035 907 5486/5057
- **Tourism**
Office hours: 035 907 5018
Empangeni: 035 907 5630
- **Waste Management**
Office hours (Emp): 035 907 5670
Office hours (R/Bay): 035 907 5789/5790
- **Traffic**
R/Bay Motor Licencing 035 907 5268/5461
Emp Motor Licencing 035 907 5650/5652
Drivers Licences 035 787 1464
Traffic Section 035 907 5633
Control Room 035 907 5760/1
Learners Licences 035 907 5030
- **Fire**
Office hours 035 907 5722/3
After 035 797 3314/5
Emergency 035 797 3313/3911
- **Property Section**
Enquiries 035 907 5038/5073
- **Hall Bookings**
Empangeni 035 907 5620
Ngwelezane 035 907 5832
Richards Bay 035 907 5048
Esikhaleni 035 907 5825
Sport fields 035 907 5352/5941
- **Water Leaks & Sewer Leaks**
Roads & Storm Water
24-hour toll free 0800 222 827
Switchboard 035 907 5000
- **Refuse Removal**
Empangeni 035 907 5670/5679
Richards Bay 035 907 5790/5769
- **Power Failures**
24-hour toll free 0800 222 827
Switchboard 035 907 5000
- **Streetlight Complaints**
24-hour toll free 0800 222 827
Switchboard 035 907 5000
- **Treasury**
Account enquiries 035 907 5497/5128/
5132/5131/5286/5960/5142
SCM enquiries 035 907 5770
Supplier's database registration 035 907 5773

uMhlathuze News - Also on: www.umhlathuze.gov.za

Correspondence: Mandy Govender, Private Bag X1004, Richards Bay 3900. Tel (035) 907 5403. E-mail: GovenderTM@umhlathuze.gov.za.

Articles, co-ordination: Gillian Readman, Mevamhlope Communications. Tel 0836420020. E-mail: greadman@iafrica.com

Design and Layout: Alliance Graphics Printing: Colour Planet

Dial 0800 222 827 for the City's 24-hour Call Centre