

# uMhlathuze Wami

The official newsletter of the  
City of uMhlathuze **February 2015**

## Municipalities pledge commitment to Thanda Royal Zulu



Understanding the far-reaching benefits of having a national first division team in the region, the City of uMhlathuze and the uThungulu District Municipality have partnered with and each sponsored R500 000 towards Thanda Royal Zulu Football Club.

The funds have provided short term emergency relief to the Club, which would have otherwise had to be sold and relocated at the end of last year.

Thanda Royal Zulu Chairman and Managing Director, Pierre Delvaux, said: "We are incredibly grateful for the funding and for the commitment shown by the municipalities towards our Club, youth development and promising players. This has allowed us to hope and we are now working hard at finding a medium to long term sustainable model."

City of uMhlathuze Speaker, Cllr Mduduzi Mhlongo, said: "Providing the sponsorship was not a difficult decision to make and Council was of one mind, together with uThungulu, that the presence of Thanda Royal Zulu in the City is of great benefit in terms of the national coverage we receive as well as the economic and tourism spinoffs.

"We are encouraged that Pierre is a local person and shares the same vision to keep the team in Zululand.

"In the years that Thanda has been based in uMhlathuze they have provided entertainment to our communities, acted as role models for our youth and produced so many national assets in soccer. We want to continue producing quality soccer players and with Thanda here we will have that opportunity."

The Club and the municipalities are now engaging the local business sector to join the partnership, as is the case with other soccer clubs around the world. "While Council will consider making the Club funding a budget item, the municipalities cannot be wholly responsible as we are dealing with taxpayer's money," said Cllr Mhlongo.

Mr Delvaux added: "Bell Equipment has reduced its sponsorship but remains committed to Thanda. Over the years, as the smallest of the big corporates, they have provided funding beyond our expectations and we would like to now see other corporates coming onboard to assist with funding."

Thanda narrowly missed promotion into the national Premier League last season and are again having a successful season. They are currently ranked third on the log and well positioned to challenge for a place in the Premier League.

# Revenue enhancing options investigated

In a pioneer project the uMhlathuze Municipality is to investigate electricity supply licences within its boundaries.

This follows an investigation into the Local Government Levy Tariff for the City, which aimed to find means of enhancing the revenue of the Municipality. Outcomes of the investigation were presented at a meeting of the Executive Committee in December by the Acting Head of the Electrical Services Section, Bheka Khanyile.

He reported that there are areas that have been incorporated within the uMhlathuze Municipal boundaries that receive electricity direct from Eskom, bypassing the Municipality, and are thus seen as a loss in potential revenue to the Municipality.

An income and expenditure analysis shows that municipal electricity customers contribute 5% of their electricity purchases to cross subsidies of other services provided by the Municipality.

"With this in mind, Eskom customers should make the same contribution," said Mr Khanyile.

He added that a computer model has been developed so that Eskom bills could be simulated into municipal bills and a 5% surcharge be levied on the bill.

It is estimated that potential revenue from the proposed surcharge could be between R20- and R350-million per year depending on the percentage surcharge and the number of direct Eskom customers with connections of 11kV and above within the municipal boundaries.

The Law provides for certain steps to be followed to implement a surcharge which include: a Council resolution, publication of Council resolutions, and informing the MEC for Local Government.

Once the legal requirements have been followed, Council can then officially approach the affected parties for possible negotiations.

The Communications strategy for the project recommends that SALGA, NERSA and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry be consulted.

## Onderverdeling van eiendom goedgekeur vir ekonomiese ontwikkeling

'n Aansoek vir die onderverdeling van Erf 6363, Richardsbaai is tydens die laaste Raadsvergadering in 2014 goedgekeur. Die 157.63 hektaar onderverdeling is ten opsigte van die perseel waarop die "Bayside Giethuis (Casthouse)" tans geleë is en toegang tot die perseel word vanaf die "Harbour Arterial" in Richardsbaai verkry

Die onderverdelingsaansoek is namens die eiendomseienaars, BHP Billiton, deur KMH en Vennote ingedien om voorsiening te maak vir die verkoop van die Giethuis (Casthouse) en gepaardgaande bedrywighede op die perseel.

Ingevolge die uMhlathuze Grondgebruikskema, is die perseel as 'n hoë impak bedryf gesoneer en vereis derhalwe geen hersonering nie. Die sonering van aangrensende eiendom sluit ondermeer "Hawe" en "Onbepaald" in.

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**E:** *The application for the subdivision of Erf 6363 Richards Bay, the property on which the Bayside casthouse is situated, has been approved by Council.*

## New carwash for Empangeni

Council has granted Special Consent for the operation of a carwash facility at 19 Turnbull Street, Empangeni, which aims to create job opportunities, promote activity in the area, ensure safety on the property and the street as well as reduce the chances of criminal activity in the area.

The carwash facility will occupy five parking spaces at the back of the building. A shade cloth will cover three bays, which will be used for interior cleaning, while two bays will be converted to one bay for the purpose of a wash bay. Provision will be made for the drainage and wash water runoff into a catch pit area.

### Conditions of the Special Consent include:

- The amenity of the area shall not be disturbed
- Appropriate rubbish bins be provided on site for waste disposal
- Parking must be provided on site
- The applicant needs to ensure sufficient power is available on the premises for the proposed use.

# UMsebenzi Wokubuyiselwa Kwezintambo Zogesi Ezingama 11 KV Esikhaleni Uyizindaba Ezimnandi Emphakathini Nakosonkontileka Abasafufusa

Umsebenzi wokubuyisela izintambo zogesi ezingama 11KV (MV) eSection H neSection J eSikhaleni uhlangebezwe ngokukhulu ukwesekeleka emphakathini okuyiwona ozothola ukusizakala ngogesi osimeme, othembekile nongenakho ukuphazamiseka njalo uma usuphelile lomsebenzi .

Nokho okuyinqayizivele kuleliDolobha lasemMhlathuze yisinyathelo esinqala kosonkontileka abasafufusa bendawo njengoba lomsebenzi usunikwa kuphela uma usonkontileka omkhulu ezonika usonkontileka omncane umsebenzi ngokwezininga elifanayo nalelo abefake ngalo ithenda.

INxenywe yoKwenziwa kweMisebenzi yo Gesi engaphansi kukaMnuz uThandanani Vundla isiqale ngokubizwa ngokuthi "ugquko lwezomnotho olungqala" ukuze kuhlonyiswe osonkontileka bendawo kanye nabasebenzi ebejwayelekile bendawo .Lendlela entsha ngeyokuba usonkontileka omncane anikezwe umsebenzi ngezininga elifanayo nalelo usonkontileka omkhulu athole ithenda ngalo uma ithende linikwe umuntu ohlala ngaphandle kukaMasipala wesiFunda sasoThungulu .Lendlela izosetshengiswa okokuqala kulomsebenzi wokubuyisela izintambo zogesi eziwu 11 kV eSikhaleni.

Umsebenzi wethuliwe emphakathini emihlanganweni emine lapho wawuchazelwe khona ekupheleni kukaJanuary kanti imihlangano yayibanjwa ezindaweni ezahlukene zaseSikhaleni.

Emihlanganweni ,uThandanani Vundla ,IMenenja yoMsebenzi yoGesi emnyangweni weDolobha weNgqalasizinda neMisebenzi yobuChwepheshe wathi abakwaZizamele Electrical yibona abanikwa umsebenzi wokubuyisela izintambo kwaH-section kanti inxenywe engama 25% yomsebenzi izonikezwa uSonkontileka omncane uGoodness and Mercy Electrical. Ngokunjalo abakwaLanga Electrical yibona abankwe umsebenzi wokubuyisela izintambo zogesi ezikwaJ-Section kanti usonkontileka omncane uOhm Electrical nguyena ozothola inxenywe engama 25% womsebenzi . Kubonakala kungamathuba omsebenzi abalelwa phakathi kwangama 70 kuya ku 100 azodaleka njengomphumela walomsebenzi .

Waqhuba wathi lendlela yenzelwe ukuqiniseka ukuthi inxenywe yemali yomsebenzi iyagcineka eDolobheni ukuze kufukulwe umnotho wendawo nanokuqiniseka ukuthi izinkampani ezinkulu ezisebenzela uMasipala zedlulisela amakhono kosonkontileka abancane. Ukuze kubhekwe ukuthi iDolobha liyaqikelela ukuba abasebenzi abajwayelekile bayawathola amakhono, kuzokhishawa izitifiketi ezisayinwe yiDolobha kanye nenkontileka enkulu njegobufakazi bokuthi abasebenzi sebelutholile ulwazi emakhonweni athile bese kuthi osonkontileka abancane bazuze kakhulu ngokwezininga le- CIDB uma sekuphele umsebenzi.

IDolobha lizobheka ukuthi lendlela iyasetshenziswa kweminye imisebenzi elandelayo ukuze kube nolwazi lwamakhono akhona eDolobheni kanye nokunciphisa ingozi emayelana nokuba iDolobha libe nabantu abanolwazi abahlala bekhona .

Lomsebenzi uhambisana ngokwezintambo kanti osonkontileka bafaka ithenda ngokwenxenywe yomsebenzi abazowenza.UMasipala ubeke imali engama R14 izigidi ngalomsebenzi osekusetshenziswe kuyo imali engama R3 ezigidi mayelane nokunqamuka kogesi okungahleliwe ngenxa yezintambo eziphazamisekayo.

Osonkontileka baqale ukusebenza ekuqaleni kukaFebruary kanti umsebenzi ulindeleke ukuba uphele ekupheleni kukaJuly. Umsebenzi ubandakanya ukubopha izintambo , ukuxhuma izintambo ukwendlala izintambo , ukufaka amaphayiphi , ukumba imisele nokugqiba.

Umphakathi welulekiwe ukuba ulindeleke ukuphazamiseka kwamandla ogesi okubalelwa emahoreni amathathu ngankathi uma osonkontileka bematasa ngokusebenza izintambo eziteshini ezahlukene.

**E:** A project to replace 11kV (MV) electrical cables in eSikhaleni H and J Sections has been met with overwhelming support from the community, who will benefit from having a more stable, sustainable and uninterrupted power supply on completion of the projects.



UThandanani Vundla iMenenja yoMsebenzi woGesi woMnyango weNgqalasizinda weMisebenzi yezobuChwepheshe weDolobha ekhuluma nomphakathi waseSikhaleni emihlanganweni yokwazisa emine okwakwaziswa kuyo ngomsebenzi wokubuyiselwa kwezintambo zogesi eziwu 11 kV osetshenzwayo njegamanje.

# UMsebenzi Wezindlu Zangasese WaseMandlazini

Abanikazi beziza abayishumi nanhlanu baseMandlazini bafinyelele esivumelwaneni sokunxephezela noMkhandlu Dolobha ngezinxenye zeziza zabo ezidingeka ukuba zisetshenziswe ukuze umsebenzi wokwakha izindlu zangasese eMandlazini uqhubeke.

Ngo-April 2014 inkampani yakwaMasefane Trading CC yankwa umsebenzi owawubandakanya ukwakhiwa kweziteshi zokumpompa eziyi-12. Nokho iziteshi eziningi kanye nemigwaqo eyayidingeka ukuze kufinyelelwe kuzo abasebenzi benxenye yokulungisa yabe isezindaweni zamalungu omphakathi.

Amalunga omphakathi awathandanga ukuba kwakhiwe iziteshi zokumpompa indle ezindaweni zawo ngenxa yokuthi umhlaba ayewuthenge koMaziphathe beNdabuko abangaphandle komngcele woMkhandlu-Dolobha.

Emuva kwalokho lwabanemhlangano neKhansela uMadondo, uMnuz uMhlongo kanye neMeya lapho kwakudingidwa indlela eyayiya phambili ngaloludaba. Kwathi phakathi noJune iPhini leMeya kaMasipala eMsebenzini yeziNqalasisizinda nezobuChwepheshe yaba nomhlangano nabanikazi bezindawo ezithintekayo nalapho achaza ngomsebenzi kwabuye kwahlahlwa indlela eya phambili.

Iphuzu elibalulekile okwaxoxwa ngalo emihlanganweni zkwaba ukuthi kwakumele kukhokhwe isinxephezelo ngendawo okwakuzokwakhiwa kuyo iziteshi zamaphampu kanye nemigwaqo engenela kuwo nanokuthi kwakuyodingeka umhlaziyi ozimele owayeyobheka ukuthi kokhokhelwana malini ukuzu abanikazi bezindawo bathole inkokhelo efananelekile yezinxephezelo ngezinxenye zeziza zabo.

Bonke ababethinteka bavakashela isiteshi sephampu esasesiqediwe esasisBirdswood ukuze babone ukuthi sibukeka kanjani nokuze babe nokuqonda ukuthi kuyini lokhu okwakuzokwakhiwa ezindaweni zabo.

Ukuhlaziya kwezindawo kwaqedwa ngo-August kanti umbiko wethulwa ngo-October ukuthi kwakuzokhokhiwa malini eyisinxephezelo ngalezondawo eziyi-15. Kwabuye kwabanomunye umhlangano nabanikazi bezindawo abathintekayo ngoNovember bona bavuma ngenani lenkokhelo. Kwabe sekuthunyelwa izincwadi eziyimvume kubanikazi bezindawo lapho babenika khona isiqiniseko sokwamukela inani lesinxephezelo esasiphuma eMkhandlwini ukuze kuqale ukwakha kweziteshi zamaphampu.

Ngenkathi kuxoxiswa, usonkontileka wanikwa cishe amapayipi abalelwa ku12 wamakilomitha ukuba afakwe kanti kulelinani kusafakwe inani elingama 3,5 amakilomitha.

Izivumelwano ezenziwe phakathi koMkhandlu nabanikazi bezindawo zibalula izimali ezikhokhelwa inxenye yaleyo naleyondwo yabo kufaka nephuza lokuthi akusayikukhokhwa esinye isinxephezelo.

Inkokhelo kulabo asebefeze yonke imininingwane edingwe yibhange seyiqalili ukwenziwa.

Inkokhelo yazo zonke iziza eziyi-15 ibalelwa kuma300 000.

**E:** *Fifteen property owners in Mandlazini have come to a compensation agreement with the Council for portions of their properties that are required for the Mandlazini Agri Village sewer network installation project to go ahead.*

## Level 1 water restrictions in place for all water users

The prolonged drought conditions that have gripped the region and placed huge pressure on water sources have forced the City of uMhlathuze to put into place a drought plan, which includes strict enforcement of restrictions for all water users.

Level 1 restrictions come into effect on 1 March and will restrict the agriculture sector to 50% of its original water quota or consumption. This includes licenced independent users. Likewise industries and commercial institutions have to reduce by 5% of their original quota and urban and household users are to reduce by 10%. Traditional areas will be restricted from 22:00 to 04:00 and all unregistered car washes will be closed.

Should there be no improvement in the water supply the City will implement Level 2 restrictions on 1 April, which will restrict the agriculture sector to 60% of the original quota.

Industries and commercial institutions will need to reduce by 10% while urban and household users will reduce by 20%. Traditional areas will be still be restricted from 22:00 to 04:00 and all car washes, registered and unregistered, will be closed.

Depending on the persistence of the drought conditions the City may need to further introduce Level 3 restrictions, which will necessitate a further 5% restriction by each sector.

A spokesperson for the Department of Infrastructure and Technical Services said that a tariff or surcharge to cater for the drought situation would also come into effect on 1 March. Water bylaws will be enforced and the City's Drought Management Plan will be supported by a comprehensive public awareness campaign to promote water conservation.

**Read page 6 for additional drought information.**



# Exciting new retail development underway in CBD



**An artist's impression of how the new Richards Bay Town Square shopping centre will look upon completion.**

A massive R200 million investment into the northern block of the Richards Bay CBD is underway with the development of the Richards Bay Town Square, which is being undertaken jointly by Gauteng-based M&F Giuricich Developments, Rejem Development and the Moolman Group.

The Moolman Group's Director of Developments, Steph Beyers, says that bulk earthworks on the 9ha site started in mid-November and that the new centre has an anticipated opening date of April 2016.

First phase of the development is the construction of a Builder's Warehouse, which should be open to the public by year end. Phase 2 entails the construction of a 3 700m<sup>2</sup> SuperSpar and adjoining retail space for which leases are in the process of being finalised. At the time of going to press Crazy Plastics, Tops bottle store and a Nando's drive-through had already been secured as tenants.

Completion of Phase 2 would still leave about half the site undeveloped. Mr Beyers said development of this portion would be economy and market driven and could potentially include a hotel, office space, further retail space or medical facilities.

Mr Beyers said that although Edilcon, a Gauteng-based company, has been awarded the main construction contract, it is anticipated that local sub-contractors would be used where necessary, thereby creating opportunities for local companies and boosting the local economy.

A representative from the Department of City Development reports that the developers have submitted building plans for the development and the Municipality has granted permission for site preparation to get underway while the plans circulate to the various departments.

He says that the development of the northern block of the Richards Bay CBD has taken some time to bring to fruition and the Municipality is excited about this positive investment into the City. "Apart from bringing income to Council, it will provide a better use of vacant land, enhance the City's profile as a regional shopping destination and possibly encourage other development within the CBD. The development of a regional courthouse complex has also been proposed for a separate portion of the northern block."



**The site layout of the Richards Town Square development.**

# Electrical Master Plan for the City

In order to ensure reliable electrical supply to its residents, the Council has approved the appointment of a contractor to formulate an Electrical Master Plan for the maintenance and refurbishment of the City's electrical network.

Refurbishment and strengthening of the City's aged electrical infrastructure is required to ensure an acceptable level of reliability in the supply of power, not only for existing clients but also to provide orderly and economic expansion of equipment and facilities to meet the Municipality's future electricity demand.

Due to the capital-intensive nature of electricity supply infrastructure, the quality of power for future needs must be planned well in advance and therefore the Electrical Master Plan will address the strengthening, refurbishment and reliability of the City's electrical network for the next 20 years.

Tenders were required to be submitted in two parts – a form offer and a technical proposal.

As a high level of technical expertise is needed for the formulation of the Electrical Master plan, a requirement of the tender process was that the person presenting the technical proposal would lead the project so as to ensure they have the technical knowledge and is qualified to compile the Network Master Plan for the City.

## New refuse skips for the City

In order to ensure continued improvement in the collection and removal of refuse from all areas within the municipality, Council has approved the purchase of 10 new 18m<sup>3</sup> and 25 new 7m<sup>3</sup> skips through two separate tenders.

Robmay Motors (Pty) Ltd was awarded the tender for the 18m<sup>3</sup> skips while Trolley & Bin (Pty) Ltd was awarded the tender for the supply of the 7m<sup>3</sup> skips. The combined cost of these tenders is R1,4 million.

However, these skips will be insufficient to eradicate the backlog of service in rural areas and, therefore, more skips will be budgeted for in the new financial year.

## Municipality takes steps to promote recovery of lakes

The uMhlathuze Council will later this month consider declaring the City a drought affected area to assist the administration to compile a business case to motivate for funding from government's Drought Relief Fund, which has been set up to help those municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal whose water supply source has been severely affected by the prevalent drought conditions.

In the meantime the City's Department of Infrastructure and Technical Services has already formulated solutions that will allow for the full recovery of Lake Chubu and Lake Mzingazi, which were at 19% and 32% respectively in January. A spokesperson for the Department said that Lake Mzingazi must be allowed to recover to a level of 80% and Lake Chubu to 95%.

### Proposed solutions include:

- Improving the Lake Chubu Water Treatment system by installing high efficiency filters to handle the high turbidity from the uMhlathuze River and by improving the dosing system of this plant.
- Making use of high-tech leak detection applications on all bulk and reticulation pipelines to curb water losses.
- Fast-tracking the implementation of a wastewater re-use project, for which a study has already been conducted.
- Implementing a water supply source management programme to weed hyacinth and other water plants on an ongoing monthly basis.
- Reviewing the water source-abstraction model.
- Installation of raw water pipelines from Mhlathuze River weir to Lake Mzingazi and Lake Chubu to augment, supplement and replenish both Lakes until they have fully recovered.

The City has not been abstracting from Lake Mzingazi since last year and abstraction from Lake Chubu has been gradually reduced to 3MI per day. Water supply is being augmented by Mhlathuze Water Board from the Mhlathuze River.

While it was reported at an Exco meeting in January that there had been a 61% increase in water expenses this does not reflect the operational savings due to the lack of abstraction from Lake Mzingazi and the reduced abstraction from Lake Chubu.

The Mhlathuze River is supplied by Goedertrouw Dam, which has been augmented from the Tugela River since last July due to the low rainfall.

# Isekela-Meya Yandisa Isasasa LoKhisimuzi



Isekela-Meya, uKhansela uZethu Gumbi kanye nengxenywe yeziNhlelo eziKhethekile bafafaze isasasa loKhisimuzi ngoDecember ngenkathi bekipha amaphasela angama 500 bewanika leyomizi enganyelwe yizingane kanye nabantu abadala emcimbinini owawubanjelwe eHolo loMphakathi laseVulindlela.

Abemukela lezizipho babephuma kulolonke iDolobha njengoba babehlonzwe yiHovisi lePhini leMeya kanye nabeziNhlelo eziKhethekile, amaKhansela, abe-Operation Sukuma Sakhe kanye nabaSebenzi bokuThuthukisa uMphakathi.

IDolobha lakhipha amaphasela okudla okungama 150 kanti kubongwa abakwaRichards Bay Minerals ngokuxhasa ngamaphasela angama 150 nokudla okuphathekayo kosuku kanye nalezinkampani ezithengisela uMasipala ezakhipha amaphasela okudla angama 200: yiBhadaza Construction, Dumza, Dweba Engineering, PMZ Construction, Isidingo Construction, Turbo Marketing, Khophela Trading, BBNM Trading, BBC Industrial, Inqomli Construction, Njomane Technical Services, Bizamina, Radds Transport, Thulebone Sales kanye neNhlosenhle Investment.

Amaphasela ayelinganiselwa kuma R400 kanti ayebandakanya impuphu, ushukela, irayisi, isitambu, usawoti, ubhontshisi, amafutha okupheka, itiye, amathini ofishi, inyama yenkomo esethinini nephalishi lamabele.

Kulomcimbi uKhansela uGumbi wahlangana nalowo awayeyiSekela-Meya phambilini naseyiLungu lePhalamende, uCeliwe Madlopha kanye namaKhansela amaningi. Yena-ke wathi uKhisimuzi yisikhathi sokuphana nokujabula kepha lesi kuvame ukuba yisikhathi esibi kakhulu kubantu bethu asebekhulile kanye naleyomizi ephethwe yizingane okungabantu abayaye beswele

ngisho izinto ezincane ngoKhisimuzi. Amaphasela okudla aqiniseka ukuthi akukhumuntu olambile ngoKhisimuzi.

UNkk. Madlopha wathi kubalulekile ukuba ngasosonke isikhathi kukhunjulwe kubuye kuhlondolozwe abantu bethu asebekhulile ngemisebenzi yabo abayenzayo ngokukhulisa izingane zabo okuthi uma izingane zabo zezedlulile emhlabeni baqhubeka bakhulise izingane zazo. Wabuye wakhuthaza izingane eziphethe imindeni ukuba zithakasele usizo olunikwa yizinhlobo ezahlukeni zohulumeni kanye neminyango kahulumeni. Wenezelela ngokuthi kumele basebenzise wonke amathuba abawanikwa nguhulumeni nanokusebenza kanzima ukukhipha imindeni yabo esimweni sobubha.

**E:** The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Zethu Gumbi, and Special Programmes unit spread Christmas cheer in December when they handed out 500 hampers to child headed households and senior citizens at an event at the Vulindlela Community Hall.





# Electricity saving tips for the home

Residents can help in achieving reductions in electricity consumption, especially during peak times, with the following energy saving tips:

**Lighting** – Replace incandescent globes with energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). These use 80% less electricity to give the same light and last six to eight times longer. Switch off lights when not in use and do not connect multiple lights to a single switch.

**Electric stove** – Bring food to the boil on “high”, then turn down to simmer until ready. Clean stove plate reflectors and match the size of the pot to the size of the stove plate. Use a pressure cooker for food that needs to be heated for a long time. Use lids on pots when cooking. Shiny pots come to the boil quicker and are, therefore, more energy efficient.

**Electric oven** – Use a stove with a convection oven and keep the oven doors closed until food is cooked. Use a microwave to reheat and a toaster to toast instead of an electric oven.

**Cooking with small appliances** – Use toasters, electric grills and skillets, pressure cookers, electric pots and bottle warmers where possible, as they are much cheaper to operate than, for example, an oven or a stove. Only fill the kettle with as much water as you need to boil. Pour any excess hot water into a thermos flask for later use.

**Refrigerator and freezer** – Don't open doors unnecessarily and make sure the airtight seals are intact. Let hot food cool down before putting it inside. Defrost regularly. Make sure that the frost build-up in your freezer does not exceed 0.6 to 1.3 cm. Do not let the fridge or freezer stand up against a non-insulated wall that faces the sun and ensure that there is sufficient air flow around the cooling elements. Turn off an empty refrigerator or freezer when going on holiday.

**Geyser** – Install a geyser blanket and insulate hot water pipes. Shower instead of bathing. Install a separate small geyser above the washbasin for dishwashing as this will limit the energy loss from pipes and ensure more hot water for bathing. Never rinse dishes under a running hot water tap. Locate the geyser close to the points of most frequent use such as the kitchen and bathroom. Determine the thermostat setting according to the number of people in the house and the required temperature for hot water at the furthest point of consumption.

## Top 12 energy savers

- Shower instead of bathing
- Use economy cycles on electrical equipment
- Use cold water taps
- Use full loads in equipment
- Use small appliances
- Set the geyser thermostat at 60 degrees Celcius
- Sun-dry washing
- Install movement sensor lamps
- Close doors and windows
- Use electric blankets instead of heaters

- Switch off heaters
- Do not overheat rooms

Air-conditioners and swimming pools are commonplace in Zululand to cope with the heat and humidity of summer. Here are some practical tips to help reduce electricity consumption to save you money and ensure you don't put unnecessary pressure on the national grid.

## Air-conditioning

- Insulating your home's ceiling can improve the regulation of the room temperature and reduce the cost of keeping the room cool using an air-conditioner.
- Wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather to save switching on fans and air-conditioners.
- Keep room doors closed so that air-conditioners do not have to work too hard.
- Correctly match an air-conditioner to the size of space you want to cool so that it is not overworked.

## Swimming pools

The swimming pool filter pump is one of the largest consumers of electricity in those homes with swimming pools and can account for up to 20% of the home's electricity consumption.

- Reduce the filter pump operating time by resetting the pump control clock to switch on only long enough as is necessary to keep the pool clean.
- Reduce water evaporation by covering your pool when it is not in use. This will also keep your pool cleaner for longer, meaning you will use the pool pump less.
- Ensure the pool pump is serviced regularly to improve its efficiency.

Source: [www.eskom.co.za](http://www.eskom.co.za)

## Steel bridge undergoes repairs

The Municipality has appointed Genmac Construction to carry out repair work to the Steel Bridge in Richards Bay during the month of February.

The repair work is valued at R200 000 and includes the replacement of support structures below the bridge as well as the replacement of those portions of the super structure that need replacing.

The Steel Bridge will be closed to traffic for a portion of the month-long contract and signage diverting traffic to the alternate route via Medway was erected at the end of January.



# Residents warned of possible load shedding

Eskom has communicated that the national power grid is under pressure and has given notice that load shedding is to be expected. In the event that the Municipality is requested to load shed by Eskom the following schedule will be used:

## State key

Normal Load Shedding <20 MW

Emergency Load Shedding > 20 MW

BLOCK	1	2	3	4	5	6	More Information:
Notes:	SUBURB	SUBURB	SUBURB	SUBURB	SUBURB	SUBURB	
<b>Stage 1 Load Shedding:</b> All Customers INCLUDING the Main Shopping Malls will be load shed at 2 hour intervals. <b>Stage 2 Load Shedding:</b> All Customers will be load shed for 4 hours. <b>Stage 3 Load Shedding:</b> Customer Blocks will be load shed for 4 hours and Load Curtailment from Key Customers will be required. Blocks will be load shed as close as possible to the time when Eskom requests load shedding to start. Normal times will apply going forward.	CBD	Greenhill Meerensee Mzingazi Small Craft Tuzi Gazi	Aquadene Arboretum + extension Birdswood Brackenham CTC Kusasa Mandlazini Silvacell Veldenvlei Wildenweide	Alton ZCBF	Carsdale Empangeni CBD Hillview Coastal Farmers Corrobrick Sanlam Centre	Bell Empangeni Braeburn, Kuleka Empangeni Rail Fairview Lafarge Quarries Mill housing Noordsig Nyala Park Grantham Park Kildare Richem Panorama Empangeni Central SAR Empangeni Zidedele Village ZSM (old mill)	For any problems experienced after load shedding please contact the call Centre @ 0800 222 827.  Esikhaleni, Ngwelezane, Nseleni, Vulindlela and Felixton are load shed directly by Eskom. The Eskom Load shedding schedules can be found on the website: <a href="http://www.eskom.co.za">www.eskom.co.za</a>
<b>MONDAY</b>							
Stage 1	07:30 – 10:00	09:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 14:00	13:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 18:00	17:30 – 20:00	
Stage 2	07:30 – 12:00	07:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 16:00	11:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 20:00	15:30 – 20:00	
<b>TUESDAY</b>							
Stage 1	17:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 10:00	09:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 14:00	13:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 18:00	
Stage 2	15:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 12:00	07:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 16:00	11:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 20:00	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>							
Stage 1	15:30 – 18:00	17:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 10:00	09:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 14:00	13:30 – 16:00	
Stage 2	15:30 – 20:00	15:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 12:00	07:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 16:00	11:30 – 16:00	
<b>THURSDAY</b>							
Stage 1	13:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 18:00	17:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 10:00	09:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 14:00	
Stage 2	11:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 20:00	15:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 12:00	07:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 16:00	
<b>FRIDAY</b>							
Stage 1	11:30 – 14:00	13:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 18:00	17:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 10:00	09:30 – 12:00	
Stage 2	11:30 – 16:00	11:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 20:00	15:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 12:00	07:30 – 12:00	
<b>SATURDAY</b>							
Stage 1	09:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 14:00	13:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 18:00	17:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 10:00	
Stage 2	07:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 16:00	11:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 20:00	15:30 – 20:00	07:30 – 12:00	
<b>SUNDAY</b>							
Stage 1	07:30 – 10:00	09:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 14:00	13:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 18:00	17:30 – 20:00	
Stage 2	07:30 – 12:00	07:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 16:00	11:30 – 16:00	15:30 – 20:00	15:30 – 20:00	

## We are powerless without you sharing the load.

- Please note that the dates and time slots are not fixed and the Municipality has the right to change the schedule without any prior warning or notice.
- Load shedding may take place at any time, which means that depending on the time, the correct block as per the schedule will be shed as per time the slot.
- The suburbs of eSikhaleni, Felixton, Ngwelezane, eNseleni and Vulindlela are directly load shed by Eskom and the Municipality has no control over the dates and times of load shedding for these suburbs. These customers can find their load shedding tables on [www.umhlathuze.gov.za](http://www.umhlathuze.gov.za) or [www.eskom.co.za](http://www.eskom.co.za)
- To determine the status on a specific day call the Municipality's 24-hour toll free Call Centre 0800 222 827 or visit our website [www.umhlathuze.gov.za](http://www.umhlathuze.gov.za). Please do not phone the fire station for load shedding enquiries.
- Please regard all electrical equipment as live during load shedding and switch off all appliances.

## Traffic fine statistics

During the 4th quarter of 2013/2014 a total of 1 901 handwritten notices were issued and income of R12 100 was received. An additional 53 441 speed camera fines were captured during 1 377 man hours. The total value of income from camera fines was R2,03 million, of which Council's portion amounts to R1,13 million.

During the 1st quarter of 2014/2015 a total of 2 881 handwritten notices were issued and income of R21 000 was received. An additional 47 303 speed camera fines were captured during 1 231 man hours. The total value of income from camera fines was R2,55 million, of which Council's portion amounts to R1,42 million.

Thirty warrants of arrest were issued during the 4th quarter of 2013/2014 compared to 135 during the 1st quarter of 2014/2015.

The Traffic Section also escorted 38 abnormal loads during the 4th quarter of 2013/2014 earning Council an income of R30 420 and 110 abnormal loads during the 1st quarter of 2014/2015 earning Council an income of R118 495.

## Fixed term contracts for cadet fire fighters

In order to ensure the smooth running of the City Fire Brigade, Council has approved that twenty Expanded Public Works Programme cadet fire fighters, whose contracts with the Municipality expired at the end of December, be appointed on a 12 month fixed term contract.

The 20 EPWP cadet fire fighters were appointed on 12 month fixed term contracts in January 2014. They, together with 20 new fire fighters, the majority of whom were former Rural Metro employees, helped to fill the vacancies which resulted from the in-sourcing of the Vulindlela and eNseleni Fire Fighting Services.

During their time of employment the EPWP cadet fire fighters have received Fire Fighting 1 and 2, Hazmat Awareness and Hazmat Operations training.

The City's Fire Brigade works 24 hours, seven days a week, including Sunday and public holidays. The maximum shift strength is 12 at Richards Bay Fire Station and five at each satellite fire station, namely Empangeni, eNseleni and Vulindlela. The minimum shift is eight for Richards Bay and four for each of the satellite fire stations.

## Medical officer appointed

Council has noted the appointment of a part-time private general medical practitioner to act as Council's medical officer of health for the next three years.

The appointee, Dr Simangaliso Sylvester Mathenjwa, will act as Council's Medical Health Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Health Act rendering Primary Health Care services as well as Occupational Health Care services to Council employees for the next three years.

This medical service will be available weekdays at the Richards Bay clinic for three hours and at the Empangeni clinic for one hour.

The doctor will be on standby on a 24 hour basis for cases of emergency and will provide a locum doctor in case of his absence.

## Richards Bay Clean Air Association Monthly Report: December 2014

### SO<sub>2</sub> (Sulphur Dioxide) Guideline Exceedances

There was One (1) measured exceedance of the NEMAQA hourly average standard (134 ppb) and Three (3) measured exceedances of the NEMAQA 10 minute average standard (191ppb). The exceedances were measured at the RBCAA Harbour West station, and were attributed to emissions from the Foskor plant.

### TRS Odour Threshold Exceedances

There were Four (4) measured exceedances of the RBCAA 10-minute Target (4.5ppb), and One (1) measured exceedance of the WHO 30-minute H<sub>2</sub>S Guideline (5.0ppb).

### PM<sub>10</sub> Exceedances

There were no measured exceedances of the daily standard.

### Air Quality Complaints

There were two (2) air quality complaints received during December 2014. 1 complaint was received on 2 December from the Arboretum area regarding a reoccurring burning rubber/tar odour. The odour was attributed to emissions from a Peat Fire. 1 complaint was received from a member of the public at the Yacht Club on the evening of 19 December, regarding a strong ammonia smell. The source of the odour was identified as Bidvest Tank Terminals (previously known as Island View Storage), where operational issues resulted in the escape of un-flared Ammonia.

### 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](mailto:complaints@rbcaa.co.za)

Website: [www.rbcaa.org.za](http://www.rbcaa.org.za)

**Water is a precious resource.  
All living things depend on  
water to survive. We are  
facing a water scarcity.  
Let us all save water.**



**LET'S ALL  
SAVE  
WATER**

## Ways of Saving Water

- ◆ Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or cleaning.
- ◆ Verify that your home is leak-free, because many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- ◆ Repair dripping taps by replacing washers.
- ◆ Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food colouring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, colour will appear within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are

- inexpensive.
- ◆ Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in the rubbish bin rather than the toilet.
- ◆ Take shorter showers.
- ◆ Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath by closing the drain first and filling the bath only 1/3 full. Stopper bath before turning water. The initial burst of cold water can be warmed by adding hot water later.
- ◆ Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.
- ◆ Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or properly set the water level for the size of load you are using.
- ◆ When washing dishes by

- hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the tap.
- ◆ Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or by using the defrost setting on your microwave.
- ◆ Kitchen sink disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste instead of using a garbage disposal. Garbage disposals also can add 50% to the volume of solids in a septic tank that can lead to malfunctions and maintenance problems.
- ◆ When adjusting water temperatures, instead of turning water flow up, try turning it down. If the water is too hot or cold, turn the offender down rather than increasing water flow to balance the

- temperatures.
- ◆ If the toilet flush handle frequently sticks in the flush position, letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it
- ◆ Create an awareness of the need for water conservation among your children. Avoid the purchase of recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- ◆ Report all significant water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers etc.) to the property owner, local authorities or your Water Management District.
- ◆ Encourage your school system and local government to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children and adults.
- ◆ Make sure your visitors understand the need for, and benefits of, water conservation.
- ◆ Encourage your friends and neighbours to be part of a water conscious community.



## Saving Water Outdoors

- ◆ Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.
- ◆ Avoid over-fertilising your lawn. The application of fertilisers increases the need for water. Apply fertilisers that contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- ◆ Mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulching also helps to control weeds that compete with plants for water.

- ◆ Plant native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees. Once established, they do not need to be watered as frequently and they usually will survive a dry period without any watering. Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- ◆ Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from these areas. Using a hose to clean a driveway can waste hundreds of litres of water.

- ◆ Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass to do so.
- ◆ Avoid the installation of ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless the water is recycled. Locate where there are minimal losses due to evaporation and wind drift.
- ◆ If you have a swimming pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter.

**Try** to do one thing each day that will result in a saving of water.

**Don't** worry if the saving is minimal. Every drop counts. And every person can make a difference. So tell your friends, neighbours and co-workers to

**"Turn it Off"  
and  
"Keep it Off".**



# Youth development action programme

The City's Youth Development Policy has been approved by Council and a programme of action towards implementing the policy has been adopted. The programme of action is to be used as a guideline and tool to assist the youth in the realisation of their development.

## Included in the objectives of the plan of action are:

- Reduce teenage pregnancy and school drop-out;
- Prevention of HIV/Aids
- Blood and organ donation
- Fight against alcohol and substance abuse
- Fight against crime
- Access to economic information
- Arts exhibitions
- Access to economic opportunities
- Youth enterprise development
- Career guidance
- Sports and recreation, particularly sports development
- Communication to inform youth of Municipal programmes
- Youth participation in Municipal programmes



There have been positive progress in the policy development, however to practically address issues of youth development, implementation is crucial and programmes need to be workshopped to allow input from Ward delegates to agree on the priorities going forward.

## Register on the City's short-code SMS system

The public is reminded of the new short-code SMS system implemented by the City of uMhlathuze in its Finance Department. Please update your cell numbers to ensure that you receive future messages from the Finance Department. These messages include credit control warning messages before your electricity is disconnected or before your water is restricted. It is also planned that in future, updates of your monthly account could also be sent via SMS.

To ensure success of these initiatives it is important that you update your cell number with the Municipality by sending an SMS with your account number to 44310. A standard SMS rate, as charged by your network, applies.

Your cell number will then be recorded on your municipal account profile and you will be able to receive the SMS messages as detailed above.

## 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](http://www.umhlathuze.gov.za)

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Design and Layout: Alliance Graphics Printing: Colour Planet

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