

# uMhlathuze Wami

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

## Operation Sakuma Sakhe plans for a productive 2015

The final Operation Sakuma Sakhe (OSS) meeting for 2014 was more of a planning workshop with officials and councillors keen to start the New Year with renewed energy using the plans established from this meeting.

uMhlathuze OSS Chairman, Nathi Nzimande, outlined the key priorities that would be the focus over the next five years with the first and most crucial being to create more jobs that would provide people with decent work and sustainable livelihoods.

"We need to start with the basic needs of the people," said Mr Nzimande. "These needs generally become part of Council's IDP. However, social issues are not always captured because the IDP deals more with infrastructure; this is where Operation Sakuma Sakhe fits in as it deals more closely with social issues."

Operation Sakuma Sahe, a programme initiated by the Office of the

Premier, is a call for the people of KwaZulu-Natal to be determined to overcome issues that have destroyed communities such as poverty, unemployment, crime, substance abuse, HIV/Aids and TB.

The programme is levelled at all spheres of government but has its foundations at ward level in all municipalities where 'war rooms' have been established to tackle identified initiatives to improve the lives of their communities.

These 'war rooms' are the service delivery engines of the programme and Mr Nzimande said they have identified that the fight against HIV/Aids and TB should be at the top of the list for the greater uThungulu area followed closely by the social ills of crime and substance abuse.

At the meeting Mandisi Mabika from BroadReach, which supports the Office of the Premier with the implementation of OSS, distributed



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Receiving their awards for the Most Responding Government Department were representatives from Department of Social Development (Richards Bay), Department of Social Development (Ongoye), Department of Home Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Department of Health.

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functionality audit forms that would assess the level of functionality of OSS within the various wards of the Municipality.

"All war rooms should be fully functional and through these forms we can find where assistance is required to ensure that war rooms are functioning effectively. The basic information on the form is to determine not only whether councillors are attending meetings but to assess their full participation in the programme."

No final meeting would be complete without awards and the following awards were presented:

- Best Performing War Room - Ward 10, Ward 11, Ward 18
- Best Performing Community Development Worker/s (CDW) - Nonhlanhla Zibani, Nokukhanya Mabaso, Sabelo Makhoba and Sbonelo Ndunakazi
- Most Improved War Room - Ward 4, Ward 6, Ward 1, Ward 19, Ward 14, Ward 30
- Most Attending LTT Meetings: Cllrs EJB Dube and F Bosman, Department of Social Development (Richards Bay), Life-Line (NGO), Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, BroadReach Health Care.
- Most Responding Government Department - Department of Social Development (Richards Bay), Department of Social Development (Ongoye), Department of Home Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Department of Health.

Mayor Elphas Mbatha thanked Chairman Nathi Nzimande and his team for their efforts during the past year. "Community work is not easy, and you and your team go beyond the call of duty to help our people improve their lives. Please continue the good work and know that your efforts are appreciated."

## Jazz festival for the City

The first uMhlathuze International Jazz Festival will take place on 14 and 15 February, hosted at Naval Island by Yonke Imizamo Productions (YIP).

Initially the festival was to be driven in parallel with the celebration of 20 years of democracy and include the promotion of Oprah Winfrey's "No Phone Zone Campaign" initiated in Chicago, USA in 2010 against the use of mobile phones while driving under the theme "put your phone down when behind the wheel".

Yonke Imizamo Productions, based in KZN, specialises in talent search and promotion, event management and communications and has successfully managed jazz singer Nomalanga from KwaMachibisa, gospel singer Thula Msimang and events such as the Durban Beach Soccer Festival; the BRICS Music Concert and the Umpithi Jazz festival.

Their experience promises that the Jazz Festival will not only benefit the community of uMhlathuze with entertainment but provide opportunities for exposing local talent as well as have the potential to become an annual fixture on the uMhlathuze Tourism calendar in attracting visitors to the City.

**Watch the local press for more information.**

## Councillor highlights outstanding service by an official

The following letter was received by Cllr CM Botha at the end of last year and highlights outstanding service by an official that is worth sharing.

*This morning I am very proud, and wish to share my experience with you.*

*On my way to the office this morning I noticed a very neatly dressed gentleman picking up paper and other waste material along the East Central Arterial, just off John Ross, carrying a plastic bag full of waste material he had already collected. A vehicle belonging to the Municipality was parked alongside the road and I decided to stop. Under normal circumstances this would not be the case but because it was obvious to me that this man was no general worker curiosity got the better of me.*

*This is when I met Dumisani Shamase, the Superintendent of Waste Management, getting down and doing the "dirty work" himself. He told me his staff was busy elsewhere collecting waste material and he decided to clean this stretch of road side himself.*

*I could not believe my own eyes – a senior manager – picking up waste material. Wow what an example he is!*

*Dumisani made me very proud. I sincerely thanked him for his excellent service, and the example he displayed as a leader.*

*Proudly, and very sincerely*  
**Cllr CM Botha**



# Council and Exco meeting dates for 2015

Council and Executive Committee (Exco) meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to listen to the debate and see how the Municipality's affairs are handled. Meeting dates for 2015 have been set as follows:

January	
Exco	Friday, 23 January
Council (Annual Report and Mid Year review)	Friday, 23 January
February	
Exco	Tuesday, 11 February
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 24 February
March	
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 10 March
Exco and Council (Draft Budget)	Tuesday, 24 March
April	
Exco	Tuesday, 7 April
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 21 April
May	
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 12 May
Exco and Council (Final Budget)	Tuesday, 26 May
June	
Exco	Tuesday, 9 June
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 23 June
July	
Exco	Tuesday, 7 July
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 28 July
August	
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 11 August
Exco	Tuesday, 25 August
September	
Exco	Tuesday, 8 September
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 29 September
October	
Exco	Tuesday, 13 October
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 27 October
November	
Exco	Tuesday, 10 November
Exco and Council	Tuesday, 24 November
December	
Exco	A short Exco will be held at 16:30 to approve minutes of the earlier meeting, Tuesday, 2 December
Final Council	Tuesday, 2 December

Exco and Council meetings are both held in the Council Chambers in the Richards Bay Civic Centre and start at 10:00 and 17:00 respectively.



# Quiet and peaceful festive season for City's beaches



Photo courtesy of Mike Patterson

The City's beaches have reported one of the quietest festive seasons in recent years with only 50 000 people arriving on New Year's Day to take advantage of the sun, sea and sand - at least half the number of people who usually frequent the City on 1 January.

Crowds were contained at Newark Beach and the Bay Hall as the City's Blue Flag Alkantstrand Beach and Palm Beach were closed due to unsafe bathing conditions. The City had almost 40 lifeguards on duty and apart from minor help-outs, no other incidents were reported during their watch.

Chief Sports and Recreation Officer, Shakier Hiranman, said that the mind-set of New Year's visitors had also changed with this year being more family-orientation. "It was very encouraging to see families coming along with their cooler boxes, blankets and camping chairs and socialising. Many of them didn't even go into the water."

He was also full of praise for the South Africa Police Service for their support. "We have never had so much assistance from the SAPS before. Brigadier Zondi truly made it happen and we are very grateful to SAPS for their efforts. They ran the show for us from chairing our Joint Operational Committee meetings to manning the search stations on New Year's Day and no incidents were reported during the open time."

The public holiday on 16 December was also usually quiet with a crowd of 8 000 bathers and similarly Christmas Day and Family Day on 25 December and 26 December respectively only attracted crowds of about 16 000 who were accommodated at Newark, Alkantstrand and Palm Beaches as well as the Bay Hall. No major rescues or help-outs were required on these days.



Photo courtesy of Zululand Observer



Photo courtesy of Zululand Observer

# Councillors reflect on the year that was

Those uMhlathuze Council members who had made their mark during 2014 were awarded for their efforts at a gala event at the Protea Hotel Richards in Richards Bay in December to celebrate the end of the year.

Municipal Manager, Dr Nonhlanhla Sibeko, thanked councillors and senior management for a successful year. "We have a lot of work to do to maintain the good results we achieved this past year."

Guest speaker at the event, uThungulu Deputy Mayor, Thulani Mashaba, said that parties cannot work alone in providing services to the people of the region. "We have to work together, whether we like each other or not. The achievements made by this Municipality have not been reached because of one individual or party, but because of the collective efforts of everyone. uMhlathuze is the pride of the municipalities in our district for having achieved a clean audit."

In his address City Mayor Elphas Mbatha said there is much to ponder on in the coming year as a number of safety and security issues came to the fore recently with the death of youngsters at the beach.

"My thanks go to all councillors and officials for achieving a clean audit for the second year. The Municipality has had good achievements during 2014 for which we must be proud but we have also had failures, which are of concern and require attention.

"Our City was also not left out in the wave of protests that spread around all municipalities across the country, which resulted in the Mandlazini community hall burning to the ground. These protests are a reflection on the failure of municipalities to provide services as well as an outlet from residents who are frustrated in waiting for service delivery.

"We may be among the top municipalities in providing services to our communities but we still have a lot of work to do. Our target was to build a further 5 000 toilets but none were built; that is R230 million we could not spend on providing dignity to our people. We cannot continue this trend. If we cannot deliver services to all our communities it is an indictment on us all."

On a positive note, Mayor Mbatha was pleased to announce that more than 1 000 households in Mandlazini and Dumisani Makhaye Village have received electricity for the first time.

Council Speaker Mduduzi Mhlongo said the City of uMhlathuze should compare itself to the best and use them as a yard stick for a way forward. He made an example with eThekweni Metro, which looked forward to huge earnings during the festive season with an influx of thousands of visitors.

"This Municipality needs to look at what we can do to draw more visitors. The youth is the largest sector in society and we need to target the youth for our future potential."

During the gala event awards were presented to the following councillors:

- Most consistent councillor in attending IDP/Budget road shows – Cllr Emmanuel Joel Bhekithemba Dube;
- Most consistent councillor in holding Ward Committee meetings and quarterly public meetings – Cllrs Sipho Sizwe Mthiyane (Ward 18) and Emmanuel Joel Bhekithemba Dube (Ward 10);
- Most consistent councillor in attending meetings (Council and committee meetings) – Cllrs David Merryweather; Khonzi Ndlovu and Mbuyiseni Khoza.
- Most consistent Portfolio Committee (awarded to the chairman of that portfolio) – Financial Services Portfolio awarded to Cllr Elphas Felokwakhe Mbatha.



**The Financial Portfolio Committee received the award for the most consistent portfolio committee, which was accepted by the committee's chairman, Mayor Elphas Mbatha.**



**Councillors David Merryweather, Khonzi Ndlovu and Mbuyiseni Khoza receive awards for most consistent Councillor in attending meetings of Council and its committees.**



# Beach Festival provides good clean family fun

The morning of the fourth annual uMhlathuze Beach Festival, which was co-hosted by the City and the Department of Arts and Culture, started out overcast and cool. With the theme "Clean Family Fun through Social Cohesion" the line-up of fun activities, games and entertainment soon had people dancing and singing along to the music on offer. The festival is aimed at providing entertainment for local residents as well as promoting tourist attractions in uMhlathuze as it attracts visitors from the broader Zululand area.



The City's team of fit and well-trained lifeguards were on duty over the festive season to safeguard bathers at the Blue Flag Alkantstrand Beach.



Although the weather was overcast, many visitors enjoyed the surf.



The beach soccer tournament drew a good crowd of participants.



Highlight of the day was popular artist Zakes Bantwini performing his song 'Carolina'.



Racing to the top of the high slide.





The Amigo's collect their prize for winning the beach volleyball event.



A tough decision for Arts and Culture's Wandile Nkala, who kept the crowd entertained for most of the afternoon with lucky prizes.



Some took the high slide in their stride while others had second thoughts at the last minute.



It was a scramble for lucky prizes during the day's events.



Impromptu soccer ball challenges kept many busy at the beach.

# 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 Kanyile.

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.

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

# Let there be light

Residents in the newest section of Dumisani Makhaye Village, where houses were built over the past two years, lived with no electrical supply until early December 2014 when more than 400 homes were connected to the City's electrical supply network.

Speaking at an event to inform residents of the connection, Mayor Elphas Mbatha said: "Today is the happiest day of my life to see the residents of Dumisani Makhaye Village receiving electricity at their new homes. They have been living with no electricity and are now connected for the first time."

Residents were jubilant when the Mayor announced that they would each be receiving 50 kWh of electricity for free. To the residents this was like an early Christmas present.

Mayor Mbatha thanked the department of Infrastructure and senior management for a "job well done!" adding, "I would like to see more projects like this one being completed."

The electrification of the new section of Dumisani Makhaye Village is linked to the project which sees residents of Mzingazi and Mandlanzini also receiving legal electrical connections to the City's power supply.

**E:** *Residents in the newest section of Dumisani Makhaye Village, where houses were built over the past two years, lived with no electrical supply until early December 2014 when more than 400 homes were connected to the City's electrical supply network.*



Residents flocked to the event where they were informed of the connection of their homes to the City's electrical supply.



# Positive start to 2015 for Industrial Development Zone

Three major investors are to be located in the recently completed Phase 1 of the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ) near the harbour. The first of the three is due to establish itself in the first half of 2015 while the second is expected to arrive in 2016 and the third investor in the 2017/18 financial year.

With an estimated total investment value of R4,56-billion it is projected that 1 280 jobs would be created both during construction and operation.

The Richards Bay IDZ (RBIDZ) has made significant progress with the installation of services and infrastructure necessary to attract these investments with 22ha of fully serviced land now available and a further 46ha in Phase 1A is earmarked for completion in July 2015.

The RBIDZ has completed and adopted a 50 Year Master Plan which provides a spatial framework for the expansion of the RBIDZ land portfolio with 3 000 ha of land identified north of Richards Bay.

The RBIDZ has the prime advantage of being close to the Port of Richards Bay, one of the country's largest natural deep water ports.

Proximity to the port presents enormous opportunity in furthering marine economy opportunities such as ship building and repair, increased containerisation as well as the establishment of oil and gas facilities.

Richards Bay has a strong industrial heritage, defined by existing multi-national companies in the minerals resources, logistics and maritime industries offering support in terms of raw and intermediary materials for downstream beneficiation.

The RBIDZ, through its marketing strategy, has identified the following strategic sectors of focus:

- Manufacturing
- Resources beneficiation (Aluminium, titanium etc)
- Wood and pulp manufacturing
- Agro-processing
- Renewable Energy

The RBIDZ has attracted 13 investment leads in the past year leading to the healthy investment potential of over R12-billion that could create around 8 000 construction and permanent jobs.

The main sectors targeted include mineral beneficiation, agro-business and processing and green economy projects with a high potential for job creation.

Further potential lies in the Industrial Economic Hubs Initiative (IEH) drive by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs which has afforded the RBIDZ an opportunity to create linkages between the IDZ and the identified hubs.

A key identified sector is in agro-processing which links farming enterprises and rural development with a food processing zone located in the IDZ.

The RBIDZ would assume a steward leadership role in the realisation of linking the harvest from the farms to value added products in the IDZ prior to their export to international markets.



At the ceremonial signing of the new Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone investor agreement are (front left): KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Senzo Mchunu; Trade and Industry Minister, Dr Rob Davies; MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs, Michael Mabuyakhulu and (back): IDZ CEO, Phumi Motsoahae. (Photo courtesy of Reinhardt Hartzenberg – Office of the Premier)



Marking the official sod turning of the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone are (from left) KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Senzo Mchunu; Trade and Industry Minister, Dr Rob Davies; MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs, Michael Mabuyakhulu; uThungulu District Mayor, Thembeke Mchunu; IDZ CEO, Phumi Motsoahae and City of uMhlathuze Mayor, Elphas Mbatha. (Photo courtesy of Reinhardt Hartzenberg – Office of the Premier)

# Taxi Associations sign pledge of peace and safety



Members of the various taxi associations in the uThungulu region met with councillors and officials from the City of uMhlathuze as well as traditional leadership during December to pray for peace on the roads and within the local taxi industry.

After a prayer session messages of support were delivered by Speaker Mduduzi Mhlongo and Mr Ngubane, speaking on behalf of taxi operators.

Thereafter chairpersons of the taxi associations signed a pledge to show their commitment to peace and safety in public transport sector within the region.

By signing the associations acknowledged that the taxi industry has been associated with and tarnished by the stigma of violence and recognised the need to transform the taxi industry.

#### **They each undertook to:**

- Ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes.
- Ensure their conduct does not create tension or endanger the public.
- Ensure the taxi industry is purged of the stigma of violence.
- Ensure commuters are put first and that the industry is conducted in a professional and respectful manner.
- Ensure all predators comply with the Constitution and laws of the country.
- Ensure that the need and pursuit of profit does not come at the expense of human lives.
- Ensure vehicles are in a roadworthy state to transport the public.
- Ensure drivers are properly trained and have the requisite documentation.
- Ensure the public and commuters are afforded the right to complain and that complaints are attended to and resolved.

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

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

The RBCAA Measures SO<sub>2</sub> at 7 sites: Arboretum (swimming pool), Brackenham (Intersection), Richards Bay CBD (Central Sports Complex), Harbour West (West entrance to the Port), Scorpio (between Foskor & Hillside), Felixton (Felixton College), and eSikhaleni (Tisand Technical High School). There were no measured exceedances of the NEMAQA standards recorded at the RBCAA monitoring stations.

### **TRS Odour Threshold Exceedances**

TRS is emitted by Mondi and is monitored by the RBCAA at the Richards Bay Central Sports Complex in Richards Bay and in eSikhaleni at Tisand Technical High School. There were Eight (8) measured exceedances of the RBCAA 10-minute Target (4.5ppb). All were attributed to emissions from Mondi Richards Bay.

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

There was One (1) measured exceedance of the current NEMAQA Daily Standard (120 g/m<sup>3</sup>). There was One (1) measured exceedance of the future NEMAQA Daily Standard (75 g/m<sup>3</sup>). The exceedances were recorded at Brackenham on 1 October 2014, and were associated with high wind speeds lifting dust from Alton.

### **Air Quality Complaints**

There were two (2) air quality complaints received during October 2014.

#### **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)

# City delivers electricity in time for Christmas

Electricity is taken for granted by so many people, without a thought for those who continue to live without electricity and rely on paraffin, gas and candles daily for cooking and light.

The week before Christmas councillors and officials at the City of uMhlathuze brought an early and eagerly anticipated gift to more than 500 Mandlazini residents when they switched on legal electricity connections in their homes.

Celebrating the new electricity supply in the area with residents, Mayor Elphas Mbatha recalled the work and planning needing to reach the point of 'switch on'. Mandlazini was formalised in 2011, the City then had to establish the number of families and households in the area and identify the heads of those households. "Only then were we able to start planning to provide electricity to these households," he said.

Mayor Mbatha said the IDP and budget process started in earnest in 2012 to plan for an increase in the number of electrical connections in Mandlazini. A combined project amount of R3,4 million was approved for more than 1 000 connections at Mandlazini and Dumisani Makhaye Village outside Empangeni.

Council Speaker, Mduduzi Mhlongo said that the electrical connections had been made possible due to Council's IDP and Budget public consultation process. "Communities need to come to the fore and assist us in prioritising what infrastructure is required in their areas so that Council can plan accordingly and make provision in its budget."

Each of the newly connected households in Mandlazini received 100 free units and thereafter they will need to purchase electricity from the Municipality.

"This project has increased our electricity connections to 85% of uMhlathuze households and is a big step towards providing 100% of households with electricity," said Cllr Mhlongo.

Many of the houses receiving legal connections in Mandlazini had previously been illegally connected and Mayor Mbatha urged residents to be responsible and pay for their electricity. "Illegal connections are not only stealing electricity but they are also extremely dangerous," he warned.

Electrical Project Manager, Thandanani Vundla, informed residents that anyone caught tampering with their meter would be fined R1 500. "Each household has to pay R800 towards the connections and the head of each household must sign a consumer agreement with the Municipality."



Mayor Elphas Mbatha said that illegal connections are not only stealing but are also very dangerous.



Deputy Mayor Zethu Gumbi; Councillor Nicholas Madondo; Electrical Project Manager Thandanani Vundla and Mayor Elphas Mbatha congratulate Thobile Nala on her new legal electrical connection.



Mayor Elphas Mbatha turns on the lights at Thobile Nala's house.



## New worship site for Empangeni

The uMhlathuze Land Use Management Scheme is to be amended by rezoning Erf 240, Empangeni from 'Special Residential' to 'Worship' to accommodate the establishment of a second mosque for the town. Erf 240 is 2 799 square metres in extent and owned by Amrid Investments. It is located in Fairview, Empangeni, on the south east of the Empangeni Central Business District and is accessed from Rex Henderson Drive.

According to the application, the proposed mosque development would consist of a two storey building with a total building area of 475 square metres and a total of 132 fixed seats. There would also be a place for religious education and the mosque's administrative office on the property.

Concerns raised in the objections received in response to the public notice given pertaining to the proposed rezoning were fully addressed by the applicant to the satisfaction of the Municipality. These largely focused on the size of the site, parking and the noise impact.

Council has granted approval for non-compliance with the minimum erf size requirement of 3 600 square metres for worship sites given that a precedent has already been set with the adjacent Erf 241, which is 2 810 square metres but has an existing church building and is used for worship purposes.

The applicant confirmed that the proposed mosque will not make use of the usual public loudspeaker system for prayer calls. Instead an automated electronic messaging system will inform worshippers of prayers times and ensure that there will be no noise impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Council's approval is granted, subject to a 28 day appeal period which lapsed on 18 December 2014, and on condition that the applicant makes the necessary applications should it be necessary to encroach on any building lines. Similarly application needs to be made before buildings may be used for an educational building and residential dwelling house.

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