

Clean up at the recycling awards

KEN MCHUNU

THE CITY'S Cleansing and Solid Waste unit, DSW, is welcoming nominations for cleanliness campaigners from across eThekweni for the recycling and cleanliness awards taking place in June.

The awards will be held in Durban at the annual general meeting of the Association for Clean Communities (ACC), an education wing of DSW that promotes cleanliness by encouraging people to start waste management initiatives in their suburbs. The ACC was formerly known as the Keep eThekweni Beautiful Committee.

Neeri Govender, Public Relations Officer at DSW, said nominees were expected to have been involved in projects that improved the environment, the lives of others and increased awareness about the importance of a clean environment.

Cleanliness campaigners can be nominated in the business, communities, schools as well as media categories.

"If you are involved in creating a cleaner environment or are aware of any organisation that is, show your appreciation by making a nomination," pleaded Govender.

There will be three trophies in the business category.

The DSW trophy, the Checkers Business Shield and the Ijuba trophy, will be awarded to a big business, small business and an informal trader, consecutively.

"For these", said Govender, "the criteria would be for a business to be actively promoting proper waste management practices".

She said the staff of these businesses also ought to be involved in community environmental projects, as well as education on recycling.

The category for communities will give away

six trophies. The Sybil Hotz trophy will go to an individual or a group that had drummed up support for cleanliness and recycling in their neighbourhoods.

The Munitech trophy will honour the community of a developing area while the Checkers Shield trophy honours an individual who has single-handedly succeeded in preaching cleanliness messages in their area.

The Tessa Palmer and the Chairman's trophies would also be conferred on communities.

For the communities' category, projects must be innovative, have an impact on the community and be sustainable.

"Verification such as cleanup campaigns in public places, garden projects or Adopt-a-Spot/Verge campaigns, must be visible in projects, as must be the war waged on illegal dumping sites," said Govender.

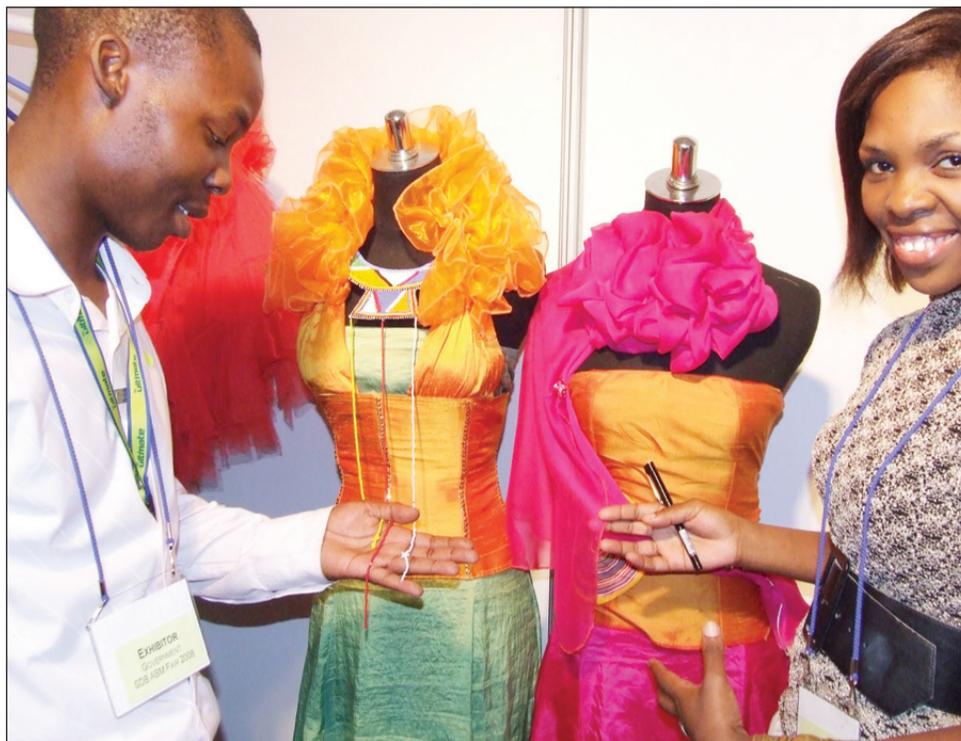
Other awards will be conferred on schools and the media, who have been campaigners of cleanup and recycling programmes with visible outcomes.

Augustine Makhetha, the association's education coordinator, said: "Given the alarming forecasts from the United Nations on global warming, the work done by many under the auspices of the Association of Clean Communities is more relevant than ever".

He said the awards would encourage more people to get involved in keeping the city clean and, most importantly, promote the recycling of waste materials at DSW's buy-back centres.

Makhetha said, "We hope the association will build and sustain a cleanliness ethic in eThekweni."

Nominations can be forwarded to Nana Sibiyi on 031 303 1665, or by email to kdbarec@dmws.durban.gov.za or zaneledl@dmws.durban.gov.za.



CLASSIC DESIGNS: Mamsie Mkhwanazi of Mamsie Creations showing SEDA eThekweni's Mgcini Mbhele her wares at a recent South Durban Basin Fair at Umlazi Mega City where more than 170 SMMEs showcased their products and services

Picture: DERRICK DLAMINI

South Durban fair: Best so far

DERRICK DLAMINI

THE development of emerging entrepreneurs is not a pipedream, but a reality Council Speaker James Nxumalo told hundreds of Small, Medium and Macro Enterprises (SMMEs) at the South Durban Basin (SDB) Fair at the uMlazi Mega City recently.

City officials described the event, held in conjunction with City's Business Support Unit (BSU), as the most successful of its kind in recent years.

Nxumalo said small businesses were a core element of the city's economy and reiterated Council's commitment to their "economic emancipation".

"Over the years, our people have been excluded from major economic activities

and this cannot be allowed to continue. This is why we hold these regional fairs."

The fairs are held in various regions of the city, culminating in the annual, metro-wide Small Business Fair - at the end of September this year.

Lee D'Eathe, SDB Area Manager, said, "We have provided SMMEs with an opportunity to establish strong and sustainable business and skills linkages with other companies and institutions over the years. Through workshops, exhibitors and members of the public have been exposed to information on how to start, develop and sustain their businesses".

D'Eathe said entrepreneurs were also given information on how to improve business operations, such as access to

finance, opportunities, government tenders and general business management information. He commended sponsors who took part in the fair.

Acting BSU head Philip Sithole described the event as an affirmation of Council's commitment to SMME promotion and development. He said small businesses were given marketing and sales advice.

The next regional fair takes place tomorrow (Saturday, 17 May) at the Tongaat Indoor Sports Centre, with 80 emerging entrepreneurs set to display their wares.

Visitors from Tongaat and surrounding areas are expected in numbers.

It will also feature a packed programme, including workshops on various business issues.

IN BRIEF

Salt March a big success

THOUSANDS of people braved heavy rain to join this year's Salt March from Inanda to Battery Beach. The annual march, now in its fourth year, commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's iconic 1930s walk in India to protest against the British-imposed salt tax. Depending on their abilities, participants walk sections of the route, or the entire 23km course.

Organiser Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of the Mahatma, walked 12kms and said this year's turnout was bigger than last year's, despite the rain. She said there had been no major mishaps. "The atmosphere was exhilarating. Most of the people were so inspired. There were a lot of people and such a spirit," she said.

Medals, t-shirts and a meal were provided after the march and Gandhi thanked sponsors for their support.

Exhibition for the Disabled

THE successes achieved by disabled people in Durban will be showcased at an exhibition next month.

The Disability Exhibition will take place on 3 and 4 June at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

"The event will give a platform to people with disabilities to exhibit their work and identify business opportunities," said Ntokozo Chonco, Head of the Community Participation and Action Support Unit which is hosting the exhibition.

The event will also give the government and private sector an opportunity to share information on their services designed for the disabled and establish markets for those with disabilities. The event is expected to attract more than 1 000 visitors and more than 70 exhibitors from various sectors of business. It is open to the public. Registration forms are available at Sizakala Centres, and the Municipality's

Communications (City Hall) and Community Participation and Action Support (Pinetown Civic Centre) departments.

For further information contact Ntokozo Chonco on 031 311 6185 or Sane Shandu on 031 311 2293.

Province will form part of documentation that will help the panel to make decisions.

The total number of houses still to be transferred in the various townships, according to records from Province, are 13081 in Umlazi, 962 at Hambanathi, 5315 at Mpumalanga, 4544 at KwaMashu, 5318 at KwaMakhutha, 11645 at Ntuzuma, 818 at Malakazi, and 600 at Magabheni.

Counselling

There are also 333 properties to be transferred at Isipingo, 764 at Chesterville, 793 at Lamontville, and 243 at Umkomaas.

Magan Naidoo, of the City Treasury, said the process will take two to three years to complete.

For further details please contact Naidoo on 031 311 1720 or Emmanuel Kleinboo on 031 311 2285.

EThekweni Municipality's Tongaat Central Library is providing free counselling services in a number of different areas like women and child abuse, family violence, stress, marital or relationship problems, addiction, crime related issues as well as scholars vocational advice. Trained counsellors will render their expertise every Tuesday. The two sessions are from 10am to 12pm and 3pm to 4.30pm. Call Vige on 032 944 4734.

R293 tenant checks – no need for panic

EMMANUEL KLEINBOOI

A RECENT article in an IsiZulu language newspaper highlighted some concerns about the process of identifying legitimate tenants of houses in former R293 areas. To put the issue into correct perspective, some background information is required.

After the emergence of democracy in our country, the townships around Durban, which were known as R293 areas, fell under the administration of the Province. Province started a process of transferring these properties to the tenants. Province then passed the administration of these townships to the eThekweni Municipality, as well as the documents listing the tenants of each property.

The Municipality, through

its housing unit, has employed 134 temporary staff to go house-to-house in these townships, verifying information and collecting the data necessary to effect transfer of properties.

If the name of the person they find at a property corresponds to the name in the documents from Province, there is no problem. But if the person is not the one in the records, then there is a problem.

The Municipality has set up a dispute panel to investigate such cases and give guidance. The panel is made up of officials and two attorneys. So people must not panic that someone else's name was taken because they were not home when the field workers visited.

The verification process will clarify who the legal tenant is. The records from

Province will form part of documentation that will help the panel to make decisions.

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Key-note Speaker
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Speaker
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