

We remain focused on fighting poverty

WE ARE now in the 14th year of our democracy.



Obed Mlaba
eThekweni Mayor

vast improvement in infrastructural development and in the lives of people. Some people have formed co-operatives, others have gone for skills development.

The Municipality has urban and rural areas within its borders and this calls for different interventions.

Rural communities are more interested in the land because they are focused on agriculture. The emphasis in their case will be on empowering them to excel in what they do best.

Wonderful

The Area Based Management teams have done a wonderful job in acting as facilitators. Through their efforts partnerships have materialised between residents and business people. There has been infrastructural development as well as skills development and job creation.

The government is truly showing its commitment to pushing back the frontiers of poverty.

Construction projects, including hospitals, clinics, malls and roadworks are under way day in and day out, contributing vastly to poverty alleviation in our communities.

Throughout this period the government has been burning the midnight oil in an effort to improve the lives of all South Africans, particularly those who live in abject poverty.

In 2001 the government identified Inanda and KwaMashu as areas that needed special attention. Later, Ntuzuma was added to form INK.

The Municipality now deals with five priority areas: INK, Cato Manor, the Inner Thekweni Regeneration and Urban Renewal Programme (iTrump), the South Durban Basin and the Rural Area Based Management.

The national government proposed urban renewal programmes as a way to fight unemployment, social dislocation, poverty and other social ills. Besides being poor, these areas have inadequate infrastructure.

The aim of establishing area based management and urban renewal programmes was to facilitate joint government action to reduce poverty and unemployment by improving the living conditions and empowering citizens to realise their potential.

In Cato Manor there has been a

Intimidation, threats are unconstitutional

THE recent illegal strike activity, by workers demanding to be employed by the City, has been most unfortunate and puts our city in a very bad light.



Michael Sutcliffe
eThekweni Manager

Municipality. Plumbers employed to fix water pipes could similarly demand to be permanently employed. And electricians employed to repair electrical faults could say they

have permanent jobs with the City, irrespective if they were needed on a full-time basis.

During all of this, many of our own Municipal staff have been intimidated and told they and their families will be killed if they did not also go on strike. Such intimidation and threats do not belong in our constitutional democracy where we all enjoy an incredible array of fundamental human rights.

Contempt

The contempt shown for democratically elected union leaders is sad given the incredible sacrifices made by them in our country to achieve fundamental rights protecting workers.

We have also found that political elements are involved – there is more to this than meets the eye.

At the end, it's the workers who have gone on illegal strikes who will be worse off. They have not been paid for more than a week and their families will suffer.

It is unlikely that any employer would want to employ people who show such scant disregard for collective bargaining processes and their own union leadership.

We must collectively fight against those who trample on the constitution and the country's labour legislation.

The few shouldn't bring us all into disrepute.

SHARING IS CARING



DELEGATES from the Ekurhuleni Municipality this week visited eThekweni to discuss issues around health and the environment, parks and cleansing and solid waste.

They later toured different sites, including the Moses Mabhida Stadium. Send your Durban photos to eZasegagasini Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4001, or e-mail naidoothrusha@durban.gov.za and we will publish the best high-resolution photos

Picture:ROMITA HANUMAN

LETTERS

Let cars use the red tar lane in off-peak periods

ALTHOUGH the City's idea to give taxis and buses specialised right of way, as is the case in Cape Town, is a good one – a total ban on cars using the red tarred public transport lane on the N3 makes no sense.

After all, taxis and buses only use this lane for a short period of time in the mornings and late afternoons.

Further, taxis and buses should be obliged to use their lane, which is not the case at the moment.

The other day I crawled behind four taxis near the Berea off-ramp, one in each lane.

My son used the red lane during the day with his bike and landed himself a warning from traffic authorities. Are taxis monitored to see that they really use their lane? I think not.

To get into this lane, taxis and buses have to cross all the traffic and cut back when leaving the

highway. What is the idea here? Should they not be confined to the leftist lane?

MARGARET SCHUBERT
Durban

THE objective of implementing the public transport lane is to give priority to public transport vehicles in line with the national government policy.

This is solely meant to improve public transport operations.

The fast lane was chosen after careful consideration of current travel patterns as well as the longer-term requirements for transport in the city.

We anticipate larger vehicles serving public transport in the medium to long term with most providing express services from Pinetown to the city centre.

At present, main target users are taxis and buses providing an

express service along that route and not taxis that need to drop off at interchange points along the route.

In summary, public transport vehicles are allowed to use any of the lanes in view of the nature of services they provide but private vehicles are restricted from using this lane.

The issue of time restriction on the public transport lane has been evaluated and there is no technical basis for allowing private vehicles to use the lane during the off-peak period. The lanes provided for private vehicles easily cope with the demand during the valley periods.

We are monitoring non-compliance by private vehicles along the facility and fines are being processed.

LOGAN MOODLEY
eThekweni Transport Authority

Noisy taxis robbing us of sleep

THE intrusive and annoying taxi hooting that goes on in residential areas in Durban affects residents.

This happens daily from early morning until late at night. It disrupts our sleeping patterns and health, and has led to a drop in property values along busy taxi routes.

Noise pollution is unacceptable. I would like to know what Metro Police are doing about noise pollution, as it violates the City's bylaws.

J CAIRNS
Morningside

In response to this and the letter titled, "Glenwood street bash robbed us of our sleep", (eZasegagasini Metro, 19 September), Metro Police wrote:

ALL noise complaints should be reported to Metro Police's Control Room at: 031 361 0000, not the SAPS (10 111).

Once a complaint has been lodged and all details supplied by the complainant, our control room would then dispatch patrols to the scene.

We have taken it upon ourselves as Metro Police, through our

bylaws, to provide security to all the planned events that take place within our borders in eThekweni. Our colleagues at SAPS chip in from time to time.

Although the nature of the disturbance determines who needs to respond among the two police forces, residents are advised to report all cases of noise pollution to Metro Police. We would then decide which stations should be involved, once we have evaluated the situation.

SNR SUPT JOYCE KHUZWAYO
Metro Police Spokeswoman

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