

Sutcliffe welcomes arrest

METRO REPORTER

CITY Manager Michael Sutcliffe has welcomed the arrest of Dees Govender, a non-uniformed member of eThekweni's Metro Police.

Sutcliffe said the arrest demonstrated the council's commitment to fighting alleged corruption and maladministration in the municipality.

Govender was arrested on charges of corruption after a Metro Police and SAPS's Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD) investigation.

Sutcliffe congratulated the ICD for "mounting this operation" which he said "complements very well the work being done by our own investigators".

He said such operations required people who were prepared to assist the city in bringing to its attention alleged acts of corruption, and "who are prepared to work with us".

"We will leave no stone unturned to rid our municipality of corrupt elements. Let those who advance corruption be warned: they will not last long," he said.

Sutcliffe said recent media reports had contained inaccuracies. These included that: □ Govender is a top policeman. *In fact he is a non-uniformed member of the Metro Police. His substantive position is as an Administrative Assistant and he has been appointed as an Acting Project Manager on the Emtateni Parking Project since 14 December 2005.*

□ Govender is the Metro Police spokesman. *In fact Thomas Tyala serves in that position.*

□ Govender has enjoyed a meteoric rise in the municipality thanks to his association with the Head of the Metro Police. *His full record of positions and date of assumption of duty are as follows: Warden (1 November*

1994), Clerk Grade 2 Fines processing (17 May 1997), Clerk Grade 1 fines processing (18 May 1998), Senior Clerk Grade 2 fines processing (23 April 1998), Administrative Assistant fines processing (1 March 1999), Acting Project manager Emtateni project (14 December 2005). For the record, there are about 982 people in the Metro Police above Govender's substantive Task Grade 8 position.

□ A mafia operating in the municipality has been busted: *If any member of the media has evidence of other individuals involved in corruption, I trust they will make that available.*

□ Govender is an operations director of Emtateni logistics. *This is untrue. Since December 2005 he has been the Acting Project Manager on the Emtateni project as someone was needed for fines processing. The city has been separately investigating this appointment as there were*

procedural problems with that appointment.

□ Sutcliffe had claimed credit for the arrest of Govender and said his arrest was a "joint operation". *This is untrue. My statement clearly commends the ICD for his arrest. Although our own investigators have been investigating Govender for some time.*

□ Senior Metro police officials pleaded that Govender should not be arrested. *I have been told that on the request of the ICD only two Metro officers (Elaine Harold and Titus Malaza) accompanied them during his arrest. We deny that anyone made any such plea.*

Sutcliffe said the net had been closing in on Govender for some time. "He has been under investigation by the municipality for some time on a number of charges.

"We are also investigating all cases where fines have been reduced or quashed to

determine that this was done for legitimate purposes," he said.

Sutcliffe said eThekweni was having some success in its fight against corruption, fraud and dishonesty.

Recently, 12 staff have been dismissed.

These included three constables from North Regional command who were dismissed last year for corruption.

One female temporary worker was dismissed for theft of a debit card from a colleague's handbag

Two summons servers were dismissed for fraud.

One constable was found guilty in a criminal trial and given a five-year suspended sentence. Two temporary traffic wardens were dismissed for forging time and attendance sheets.

About 20 internal hearings were also scheduled and some have resigned before hearings were held.

Renaming process to end soon

SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

THE street renaming exercise could be concluded in the next month.

City Manager Michael Sutcliffe said this week the team of officials charged with sifting through submissions for the renaming of buildings and streets was working on new submissions received over the past two months.

He estimated about 60 names would then be sent to the Masakhane Committee for further consideration after this process had been completed.

Siyabonga Mngadi, the Head of the municipality's Corporate Geographic Information Systems Department and one of the people in the task team, said since the extension of the deadline to 23 June, the team had received much feedback from the public and ward committees.

"We have had about 90 ward committees commenting on the process and in most cases we must say that it was positive feedback."

"On top of the 176 names which were advertised in newspapers for comments, we received 112 new proposals from the public and during the extended closing date, we received a further 212 new proposals from ward committees and 221 from the public," said Mngadi

The proposed names would be sent to the Masakhane committee that would forward them to Exco and ultimately to Council.

Mayor Obed Mlaba has indicated he would like to see at least 30 names changed.

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Contact centres vie for KZN glory

KIROSHA NAICKER and KAREN LOTTER

MORE than 30 organisations competed for honours in the KZNonSource Regional Contact Centre Awards at IMAX Theatre, Gateway, last week.

The winners in the individual category were Jermaine Naidoo for Agent of the Year (Direct Channel Holdings), Annemarie Gerber for Manager of the Year (Nedbank), Eitan Oliver for Supervisor of the Year (Nedbank) and Nellie Cabane for Trainer of the Year (Peoples Solutions).

Matlejoane Staffing Services and BizWorks each received certificates of recognition in the Best HR Service Provider of the Year and Community Spirit categories respectively.

Direct Channel Holdings won the organisational award for Best BPO/ Contact Centre, and RL Daly took the coveted

award for Best Outbound Campaign.

Daly Contact Centre were recognised for their Standard Bank credit card live campaign.

The company's Managing Director, Andy Mc Nabb, said: "We have a 180-seat facility in Mount Edgecombe but are looking to move to our new, custom built 500-seater facility down Flanders Drive, in September."

Medscheme, Cell C and BizWorks were also finalists under the Best Customer Service Centre Category.

KZNonSource Chief Executive William Goldstone praised the municipality for ensuring "this province is directly involved in building this industry".

The national finals are scheduled to take place at the ICC on 13 October.

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START THE CLOCK



MAYOR Obed Mlaba and First National Bank KwaZulu-Natal Chairman, Gareth Davies last week unveiled a special clock at the Durban International Airport which has begun a countdown to the 2010 World Cup. The bank is one of the supporters of the football showpiece and has invested R30-million into South Africa's 2010 preparations

Picture: KEN MCHUNU

Metro cops bust 'ATM bomber'

FINOLA QUARSINGH

PROMPT action by the Metro Police last week led to the arrest of a suspected ATM bomber.

Metro Police Const Bhekithemba Mathunjwa responded swiftly to a report of an ATM bombing at the Waterfall shopping centre. The Nedbank ATM had been dynamited and an undisclosed sum stolen.

On arriving, Mathunjwa spotted a suspected gang with four getaway vehicles and radioed for help.

Metro Police gave chase and arrested a suspect, a 35-year-old man, driving a BMW, at the Hillcrest Shell garage.

Metro Police spokesman, Senior Supt Thomas Tyala, said: "During the search it was discovered the vehicle was loaded with candles and dynamite, which we believe are used for bombing ATMs."

"The suspect could be linked to certain armed robberies in Durban recently."

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Cleanliness campaigners honoured

KEN MCHUNU

CLEANLINESS campaigners from across eThekweni were honoured last week for their efforts over the past year to reduce waste in their communities.

It was the high point of a programme by the Association of Clean Communities, in which communities were asked to nominate groups and individuals who had participated in waste management programmes.

Formerly known as the Keep eThekweni Beautiful Committee, the Association of Clean Communities, an education wing of the city's Cleansing and Solid Waste unit (DSW), promotes cleanliness by encouraging people



WELL DONE: Tim Elliot, Chairman of the Association of Clean Communities, presents AJ Ngema with a trophy for her adopt-a-spot in eZimbokodweni

Picture: KEN MCHUNU

to start waste management initiatives in their suburbs.

Winners 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.

Winning initiatives included adopt-a-spot, adopt-a-verge and promoting the

recycling of waste materials at DSW's buy-back centres.

Augustine Makhetha, the association's education coordinator, said the competition recognised those who had heeded their call.

"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.

Tim Elliot, Chairman of the association, said the competition was a way of thanking participants and encouraging others.

The association recently increased its staff to 14 education officers and 28 assistants. Makhetha said this

meant they were now able to run more projects.

Petros Hlabangane, a cleanliness campaigner from Kwa-Makhutha and a winner in the individual cleaners category, has adopted an area in his neighbourhood, which he has cleaned and adorned with beautiful flowers.

After 14 years of committed voluntary work, Hlabangane said this was the first time he had received any form of appreciation for his work.

He said the awards would encourage more people to get involved in keeping the city clean.

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