

## WARD COMMITTEE UPDATE

**CLLR JAMES NXUMALO**  
COUNCIL SPEAKER

WARD Committees have now been elected for all of the municipality's wards.

This puts in place an important cog in the developmental and service delivery chain.

The committees' role is to encourage community participation in city affairs.

For our ward committees, it has been a baptism of fire.

Their first assignment was to consult on and debate the sensitive issue of renaming streets and municipal buildings and make recommendations to the council.

They played a pivotal role in this issue and displayed maturity in their approach and the manner they expressed their views on this matter. The council will communicate with them again on this matter after it

has deliberated on it.

We also want to commend ward committee members who were able to attend induction workshops in June. More workshops will be held for ward committee members to empower them with the required knowledge so they can perform their duties with confidence and make informed decisions.

Ward committees are urged to elect ward committee secretaries from among themselves.

These individuals will form a communication link with the Speaker's office, of course not withstanding that ward councillors chair the ward committees.

I appeal to ward councillors to work closely with ward committees so as to expedite service delivery.

□ Inquiries about ward committees can be directed to the Office of the Speaker: 031 311 2015 / 031 311 2021.

## IMAGINE DURBAN

IMAGINE Durban is a council-led project on integrated, long-term planning.

It is also about realising the choices we make today will affect our children and grandchildren tomorrow, just as the problems we live with today are the result of decisions and actions taken in the past.

It is important we take actions today to build a better and brighter future for future generations.

Imagine Durban is about fulfilling the city's vision of making Durban Africa's most caring and liveable city.

It is an idea generating and implementation process involving all citizens and stakeholders in eThekweni.

The best way to make the right choice is to make an informed choice, and this is where the knowledge of the people of Durban come in.

The Imagine Durban process will begin by asking five key questions of people from all walks of life, namely:

□ What do you like about the neighbourhood where you live?

□ What do you not like about your neighbourhood?

□ What changes would you most like to see in your neighbourhood?

□ Describe your hopes and dreams for:

– your neighbourhood in the future;

– Durban in the future.

□ What can YOU do to make these dreams a reality?

These questions are being put to residents through surveys, postcards in libraries, municipal centres, restaurants and coffee shops, through high school students, ward committees and the Imagine Durban website ([www.imagedurban.com](http://www.imagedurban.com)).

The Imagine Durban team (municipal staff, representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and religious bodies) will gain perspective on the citizens' wants and needs for the city. In turn they will strategise, programmes and plans and will be working to turn them into action.

It is envisaged that, arising from Imagine Durban, a charter will emerge to guide all our actions. It will help the municipality ensure its plans are aligned with the spirit and goals of Imagine Durban. Similarly, captains of industry and leaders from academia and civil society organisations will have to ensure their programmes are in concert with the charter. Joe Citizen will have a role to play too: the opportunity to get informed, get involved, and to live in a way that does not inhibit future generations from enjoying a high quality of life. – *Finola Quarsingh*

## Ekurhuleni team hosted

COUNCIL Speaker, Cllr James Nxumalo last week played host to the Speaker of the Ekurhuleni Metro, Cllr Ntombi Mkgwe and her Chief Whip, Moses Maseko.

The two were part of a 10-member delegation from Ekurhuleni, who were in the city to learn about service

delivery in eThekweni.

City Manager Michael Sutcliffe gave a presentation on some of the city's projects, including the Moses Mabhida Stadium, the People Mover, and the Dube Trade Port.

The delegation later visited city project sites and attractions. – *Ken Mchunu*



**SLIPPERY CUSTOMER: Siyabonga Nxumalo (6) and Freeman Ndawonde, a Fitzsimon's Snake Park curator, get up close and personal with a Burmese python at a Natural Science museum exhibition last Saturday** Picture: THEMBA KHUMALO

**THEMBA KHUMALO**

SNAKES, owls, mole rats, tortoises, scorpions, bullfrogs, maggots, mealworms, bats, and iguanas were just some of the weird and wonderful animals on display at the Natural Science Museum's KwaNunu interactive exhibition last Saturday.

More than 700 people packed into the galleries at the

## Museum up to maggots

City Hall to take in the show, which included live and mounted animals.

It was organised by the museum and the University of KwaZulu-Natal, to "encourage appreciation, under-

standing, and debate on the natural sciences and their contribution to humanity", said the museum's education officer, Bona Nyawose.

Siyabonga Nxumalo, 6, was thrilled by the show, particularly the pythons from the Fitzsimon's Snake Park.

"I came here because I wanted to see animals and have fun," he said.

*KhumaloTK@durban.gov.za*

## PROFILES: COUNCILLORS

The city's 200 councillors are well into their term. Here we continue our series of profiles so you can put faces to names and get to know them better



**Name:** Gill Steven Fourie (PR)  
**Age:** 50  
**Family:** Married with four daughters

and a son  
**Party:** ANC

**Ward:** 35 – Umhlanga, Glen Anil, La Lucia, and part of Durban North

**Committees:** Economic Development and Planning  
**Ward needs:** Maintaining the service level, in terms of the basic needs and infrastructure, in the ward.  
**Has delivered:** Played a role in creating an environment, which contributed to property development for both residents and businesses in the ward.

**Challenges for 2007:** To re-visit and streamline the whole planning application process, in terms of rezoning and planning.

Also, to effectively and successfully implement projects aimed at community development.  
**Passionate about:** Organic farming using permaculture methods.

Have also implemented a 1ha and an 11ha project and gained enormous experience.

We now wish to implement an integrated housing and agricultural project.  
**Contact:** 083 262 6275 .



**Name:** Siphon Kaunda (PR)  
**Age:** 39  
**Party:** ANC  
**Family:** Married with a son and a daughter

**Ward:** 52 – Phoenix which encompasses Lenham, Westham, Northcroft, Whetstone, Brookdale, part of Brooksfarm and Bambhaya

**Committees:** Health, Safety and Social Services, KZN Pension Fund, eThekweni Aids Council

**Ward needs:** Housing is a major issue in the ward. Pavements, and speed humps need to be constructed. A swimming pool needs to be built. Unemployment is a concern, so more job opportunities need to be made available.

**Has delivered:** Speed humps where school children cross the road.

The construction of pathways, sidewalks, street lighting as well as some housing.  
**Challenges for 2007:** To create job opportunities. To build more houses in the ward as well as to build a youth centre.

**Passionate about:** Sports, development and family.  
**Contact:** 031 500 4595 (work), 031 519 0901 (home), 073 353 0901, *kaundasa@durban.gov.za* .



**Name:** Mqiniseni Simon Zwane (PR)  
**Age:** Would not say  
**Family:** Single

**Party:** ANC  
**Ward:** 63 – Queensburgh, Malvern, Escombe, Ekuthuleni and all areas around Shallcross station.

**Committees:** Masakhane  
**Ward needs:** Providing proper housing for residents of informal settlements. To ensure that complete racial tolerance is achieved.

**Has delivered:** Played a role in the process of cleaning parks in the ward. Advocated a campaign to upgrade the roads, especially Gillits Road in the Escombe area next to DSW. Also, had a role to play in campaigning for proper streetlights in the area.

**Challenges for 2007:** To ensure there is an effective structure to deal with criminal elements, such as a community policing forum. To provide proper housing for former domestic workers who now reside in the ward. To eliminate poverty. Dealing with elements of racial intolerance within the ward.

**Passionate about:** Embracing people of diverse cultures and political backgrounds. I appreciate life in general.  
**Contact:** 082 964 3348 .

## Officials visit Maputo

**METRO REPORTER**

ETHEKWINI officials and business people recently visited Maputo to share their experiences of good governance and talk about solutions to problems involving the environment, solid waste, electricity, water and small business development.

The visit followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two cities last month.

Mayor Obed Mlaba was party to the memo because he has been appointed to drive the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) Cities initiative, which encourages sharing good governance principles.

The mission was led by Deputy City Manager for Procurement and Infrastructure, Derek Naidoo, Andrew Mather, of the city's Coastal Management department, Carlos Esteves and Victor Baloyi of the eThekweni Transport Authority, and Lindsey Mather of landfill sites.

An eThekweni-Maputo investment forum will be held in September. Contact Bongwe Mhize on 031 311 3434 or 083 7459 640 or e-mail *mkhizeb@durban.gov.za* .



**Name:** Thandi Lucia Gabela (PR)  
**Age:** 37  
**Party:** ANC  
**Family:** Married with two sons and

10 daughters  
**Ward:** 63 – Chatsworth, Shallcross, Malvern and Queensburgh

**Committees:** Masakhane  
**Ward needs:** Employment opportunities. Converting informal settlements at Shallcross into decent households for residents and installing electricity for these residents. Devising effective crime-combating programmes. Establishing an efficient community policing forum. Providing skills development to the youth, especially women.

**Has Delivered:** Assisted in leading programmes to bring about electricity in Shallcross. Played a role in orchestrating for certain roads to be revamped.

**Challenges for 2007:** Ensuring employment opportunities are created. Skills development, focussing on the youth. Effective implementation of development programmes.

**Passionate about:** Working for the community and my political organisation. I am a devout family person and netball is my favourite sport.

**Contact:** 072 407 0518 .