

# TALKS *to our community*

February 2011



## Hello Baby!

*The Metro welcomed New Year babies at various hospitals throughout the region. Members of the mayoral committee, Clrs Mthuthuzeli Sibozza, Vivian Chauke, Aubrey Nxumalo, Tiny Mabena, Ndosi Shongwe and Makhosazana Maluleke visited mothers and babies bearing gifts. Pictured is Clr Mabena at Pholosong Hospital in Tsakane, where seven little people entered the world on 1 January 2011. Thoko Myakeni's little girl was born at 10:15am, just 15 minutes before this photograph was taken.*

# GETTING DOWN TO WORK

**New Executive Mayor Clr Mondli Gungubele has outlined the Metro's programme of action under the theme of 'Towards the end of the second term of local government'. This theme encapsulates the work that must be done in the next few months.**

## **PRIORITY PROJECTS**

Areas in the field sport, recreation, arts and culture that will get attention include the upgrading and refurbishing of swimming pools. Together with sporting bodies, the Metro will reintroduce school sport before the end of June 2011. In previously disadvantaged communities there was a lack of educational facilities that will be addressed with an increase in the availability of books published in indigenous languages.

When it comes to applications for development and investment in the region, the decision making systems is to get

immediate attention so that backlogs in finalising development applications are implemented. Turnaround time, efficiency and effectiveness in finalising and approving land development applications will also be improved.

Gungubele says that street trading facilities are to be built that will contribute to better urban management and regulation in the region. Work has already started on 10 facilities in the areas Tembisa, Baxa, Sethokga Phase Two, Leralla, Phomolong, Katlehong, Natalspruit Hospital, Springs, Tsakane and KwaThema. Greater involvement of SMMEs in local economy is also on the cards.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

When it comes to electricity, a key focus point is to reduce unplanned power interruptions and generate adequate revenue by ensuring that the entire revenue value chain is

effective and address the reduction in service connection backlogs. This will be achieved through, among others, refurbishment, development and strengthening of the electricity networks, managing of theft linked to power, maintenance and protection of electricity and water meters and to provide accurate billing.

For those who have prepaid meters, more points where units can be bought will be made available in the first quarter of this year. There will be a roll out of low pressure solar water heaters to low cost housing. This speaks to the core of the Metro's efforts to save expenses in respect of buying power, to reduce energy and thereby dealing with poverty and underdevelopment.

Over 120 000 houses in proclaimed areas are still without electricity, which is being rectified.

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# GETTING DOWN TO WORK

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In addition streetlights and high mast lights will be erected and will benefit areas like Zama Zama, Bapsfontein, Daggafontein, KwaThema Extension Three, Lindelani and Rooikop Station.

When it comes to water consumption, efforts are underway to provide accurate readings, which will be achieved through the installation of above ground meters. High water losses are found at indigent homes as a result of, among others, leaking and badly maintained internal plumbing and infrastructure. Water loss among the 1 000 highest using households will be reduced.

Clinics, in the provision of primary health care, should be accessible to all communities. Five new clinics are to be completed in the second quarter of 2011 and will benefit the areas of Katlehong North, Wanneburg, Reedville, Slovo Park and Tsakane Extension 10. In addition more clinics will extend their working hours.

## GROWTH

The Growth and Development Strategy 2025 of the Metro is under review and will incorporate all departmental strategies to promote and enhance integrated planning.

The financial objectives of the Metro span beyond the rest of this term. These objectives include achieving a clean audit, which is to be achieved through ensuring that all internal controls are functioning optimally. To ensure stability of the organisation, a strategic imperative is the co-ordination between billing and the actual

transaction. This means accurate billing of accounts to customers, alignment between the use of services and billing as well as intensifying efforts to collect monies owed where customers have the ability to pay but lack the willingness, or have the willingness but need an accurate statement.

To bring services even closer to the community, a number of drive thru vehicle licence renewal facilities will be built. When it comes to safety, over the next quarter the aging fleet at the fire stations will be replaced and then new vehicles will be placed at key strategic areas associated with risk categories, thus reducing response times to emergencies.

Storm water drainage systems will be improved and the provision of sanitation

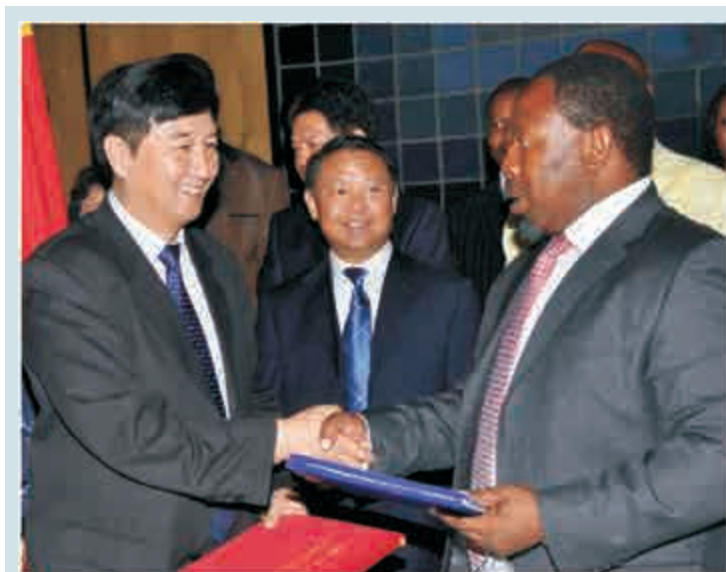
services to informal settlements accelerated. A hostel management programme will also be implemented.

The environment is just as important and challenges to be addressed are illegal dumping, pollution of the wetlands and lakes and the catchment and retention for storm water. Existing parks and recreational facilities are to be rehabilitated, new parks and recreational facilities built and lakes to be cleaned.

\* To read the full inaugural speech of Clr Gungubele, you can visit the website [www.ekurhuleni.gov.za](http://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za).



Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality Executive Mayor Clr Mondli Gungubele during an Imbizo in the Tembisa Multi-purpose Centre in December.



Member of the Mayoral Committee for Economic Development Clr Abdul Mogale exchanges documents with Zhang Shaoliam, Vice-Mayor of Harbin City in China, after the signing of a trade agreement between the two cities. The agreement will see the two strengthening cordial ties in the manufacturing industry with emphasis placed on the automotive sector, tourism development and co-operatives. Both parties expressed commitment to promote, support and facilitate co-operation and exchanges between their respective business sectors. A twinning agreement was signed between the Metro and the City of Harbin in June 2004 with the view to broaden mutual and beneficial co-operation. Since then a number of exchange visits to strengthen the bilateral relations have taken place. These visits culminated in the establishment of a working committee set up to ensure the implementation of the three identified areas of agreement.



# DOLOMITE MOVES BAPSFONTEIN FAMILIES

**Due to dolomite instability the area where about 3 000 Bapsfontein families called home was declared a local disaster area late last year, and families had to be moved to a safer environment.**

Relocation began shortly after Christmas. Within one hour of the first day, 10 families had already been relocated to an identified in transit area, next to Chief Albert Luthuli township near Benoni. The Metro is not only assisting the families to move, but also aids with the putting up of new structures. Residents are provided with clean water, mobile toilets, basic health services and solid waste removal.

The families are being temporarily relocated to N12 Highway Park – the area between Putfontein Road on the western side, Benoni Road on the eastern side, N12 on the southern and Chief Albert Luthuli Extension Three on the northern side.

Residents are thanked for their co-operation in the relocation process which was necessitated as the land on which they were living is unstable due to dolomite instability, making it not safe for human settlement. Dolomite is soluble and over time dissolves, posing a danger to people living on dolomitic land where cave-ins, known as sinkholes, eventually occur.

## OPEN FOR TRADE

**Over 600 street traders in Tembisa ended 2010 on a high note when the Metro officially opened the newly built street trading facilities, which will improve conditions of street trading and enable traders to do business come rain or shine.**

The facilities are in Ibaxa, Phomolong and Leralla and were opened a week after Clr Mondli Gungubele, Executive Mayor, made a commitment to develop decent street trading facilities in an effort to contribute to better urban management and regulation in the city.

Trader Jerry Makelane praised the initiative of the Metro, "The trading area is very neat and clean. But most importantly, the weather conditions will not again determine my profit levels. Previously when it rained or there was wind, I would have to pack my things and go home."

The traders will be required to pay a minimum fee of R150 per month for maintenance of the trading stalls, which come with a



*MMC for Economic Development Clr Abdul Mogale, Clr William Javis, Executive Director for Economic Development Ursula Ntsubane (far right) and Norah Selaule, one of the beneficiaries, cut the ribbon to open the new trading stalls in Tembisa.*

communal kitchen and ablution facilities. The Ekurhuleni Metro embarked on the programme to develop street trading facilities in 2004 that has contributed to a cleaner environment and played a crucial role in assisting traders to adhere to the local bylaws. To date in the region of R40 million has been spent on the project.

Member of the Mayoral Committee for Economic Development Clr Abdul Mogale says traders will enter into a three-year contract with the Metro to use the stalls. Traders can reapply after that time period, but he encourages them to grow their business and not be life time street traders.

The MMC explained that training opportunities are available to assist people to grow their business. Already it has begun in fields such as spray painting, art welding, brick laying and basic paving to encourage people to form co-operatives and develop sustainable business.



# BOOK YOUR LICENCE TO DRIVE



**To make a booking for a licence to drive a motor vehicle or motorcycle – either learner or driver – you will need to visit a testing station within the Ekurhuleni region.**

This follows after the centralised call centre crashed last year. Any of the local testing centres can be visited for a booking between 07:45am (Wednesdays from 9am) and 3pm Mondays to Fridays and from 9am to 12 noon every last Saturday of the month.

You must be 17 years of age to book for a learner's licence, and 18 years old to take your driver's licence (Code 2 – B and EB) test. To apply for a 125cc motorcycle licence, you must be 16 years old while the age limit is 17 for a bike bigger than 125cc.

When making a booking for a learner's licence take along your ID, an ID photograph as well as R95 application fee. You will also undergo an eye test. On the day of the licence make sure you have your ID, an ID photograph as well as R50 for the issuing of the licence should you be successful.

With a driver's licence booking you will undergo an eye test and need to have your ID with you as well as an ID photo and R170 for the application fee for a motorcycle licence, R205 for a motor vehicle or R220 for heavier vehicle licence (eg C1). On the day of the test you must have your ID with you as well as your learner's licence, three ID photos and R190 for the issuing of the licence on your person.

Below is the list of licensing centres in Ekurhuleni:

- *Alberton - Alberton Traffic Department, Cnr Bosworth and Fuchs streets, Alberton*
- *Bedfordview - Bedfordview Traffic Department, 110 Osborn Road, Bedfordview*
- *Benoni - Benoni Traffic Department, Cnr Tomes and Victoria roads, Benoni*
- *Boksburg - Boksburg Traffic Department, Reservoir Street, Boksburg East*
- *Brakpan - Brakpan Traffic Department, 212 Short Street, Brakpan*
- *Edenvale - Edenvale Traffic Department, Riebeeck Ave, Edenvale*
- *Germiston (Wadeville) - Germiston Traffic Department, 110 Osborn Road, Germiston*
- *Kempton Park - Kempton Traffic Department, H Lewis Street, Kempton Park*
- *Nigel - Nigel Traffic Department, 58 2nd Avenue, Nigel*
- *Springs - Spring Testing Station, Diesel Road, New Era, Springs*

## AID GRANTED TO TUNE OF R3M

**Almost 600 organisations received a grant from the Metro, totalling over R3 million, towards the end of last year.**

This is part of the Grants-in-Aid programme of the local authority which is allocated annually to organisations involved in the arts, education, social, sport and local economic development sectors. It is one of several programmes through which the Metro assists organisations engaged in activities that support its strategic plans and priorities, functioning in fields where the Metro itself is not actively or sufficiently engaged.

An amount of R765 660 went to the education sector, R1 148 490 to social development, R574 245 to arts and culture and R382 830 to local economic development.

To apply for a grant, application forms can be collected and submitted to the Department of Corporate and Legal Services before the end of April every year. An adjudication process then takes place and is followed by the hand-over ceremony. For more information on the programme you can call Annah at 011 999 0806 or [annah@ekurhuleni.gov.za](mailto:annah@ekurhuleni.gov.za); Kobus at 011 999 0832 or [houghjh@ekurhuleni.gov.za](mailto:houghjh@ekurhuleni.gov.za) or Nthabiseng at 011 999 0810 or [LerataN@ekurhuleni.gov.za](mailto:LerataN@ekurhuleni.gov.za).

## SMS METER READING SCAM

Ekurhuleni residents and business community are warned not to fall prey to a bogus meter reading service said to use the short message system (SMS).

It was reported that an advertisement for a company named KGB-Reading invites residents to use the SMS method to have their water or electricity meter checked at a cost of R15 per SMS. To check the meters after hours would cost between R20 and R30.

Be advised that the Metro does not have such a service. The organisation does not levy cash fees on any service delivered on meter reading, rather, the levies will reflect on the consumer's account. Investigations into the matter saw that the company advertising this service does not exist.



**City of  
Ekurhuleni**