

Bay News

OFFICIAL MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

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Coronavirus: it's an all-out effort!

Our City is caught in the grip of twin pandemics: COVID-19 and the water crisis. The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality wishes to assure residents that it is making every effort to contain the effects of these challenges and to protect the health and safety of residents. However, we need a social compact; we need our residents and local communities to become our partners in battling these crises. We appeal to residents to intensify and tighten the precautions they are taking against the coronavirus, especially now that we are entering the peak phase. To those who are already cooperating: thank you, but we want more!

We urgently request you to always comply with Coronavirus related protocol such as social distancing, wearing a mask and washing your hands. Our concern is also our township areas and other high density residential areas where residents may find it harder to comply with this



protocol. We also ask you to take special care of our elderly citizens, given that they are particularly vulnerable to this virus.

Residents of all communities

still socialise freely, in clear contravention of Section 37 of the National Regulations, which prohibits social gatherings under Alert Level 3, unless the gathering is

taking place at the following: a funeral, a professional non-contact sports match (including only players, match officials, journalists), medical and television crew, a

religious institution or place of worship, a workplace for work purposes and auctions (subject to directives issued by the responsible Cabinet members).

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DAY ZERO IS LOOMING! USE 50L PER PERSON PER DAY

 Report leaks on 0800 20 50 50

 waterleaks@mandelametro.gov.za

 nelson mandela bay
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Message from the Executive Mayor



Dear residents

We are being tested.

Undoubtedly, the City is facing a very difficult time with, on the one hand, the Coronavirus that is assailing us and, on the other hand, our ever-dwindling water supplies.

If we ever had resources of competence, maturity, compassion and loyalty, now is the time to tap into these and make sure that we pull through stronger, better and more united.

I am confident that we will!

I trust that this edition of *Bay News* will give you better insight into the Municipality's programmes to secure a stable water supply for the City as well as to flatten the curve of the Coronavirus.

Please work with us so that we can contain the spread of the virus and water wastage. We have just thrown a lifeline to 96 local tourist establishments so that they can hit the ground running and reclaim our space as a tourist City of note when we return to normality.

Take heart, be strong and, above all, be safe and healthy!

Blessings and best wishes

ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR THSONONO BUYEYE

Coronavirus: it's an all-out effort!

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The Municipality itself is subject to these regulations and is complying. For example, recent Council meetings have been held on a virtual basis to ensure that the maximum of 50 persons in any gathering is not exceeded.

Municipal employees hard at work:

The institution, like most major businesses and institutions throughout the Metro, has itself been subject to staff infections. Sadly, a number of staff members have passed away because of the virus. Many municipal employees are still working from home in terms of Level 3 lockdown regulations. Despite all these challenges, employees have been doing sterling work in ensuring that basic services are delivered to all communities. Under these trying circumstances, we have been able to collect garbage, fix infrastructural problems, pay our creditors timeously or to the best of our ability, prepare and submit the required reports to other key stakeholders, complete the Budget for approval by Council, and many more. All these responsibilities are being undertaken under abnormal circumstances that are affecting not only our city and country, but the entire world. The hard work and sacrifice by staff members have not gone unnoticed, and on 3 August 2020 the Acting City Manager, Mr Mapu, sent a letter to all to thank them profusely for their hard work and sacrifice and for putting the people of the city first.

Accommodating our residents and tourism industry in these difficult times:

The institution is deeply aware that many residents and businesses are struggling because of a lack of or reduced income following the cessation or curtailment of many business and economic activities over

the lockdown period. The institution has therefore accommodated residents and our key stakeholders, such as business and other groupings, in a number of ways. Over recent months, the municipal Budget and IDP were refined and adapted to speak to the devastating effect of the coronavirus on our residents and economy. We are happy that we could reduce the proposed increase in property rates from 8.5% to 6%, and the increase in the water and sanitation rates from 8% to 6% in our June 2020 budget. We've also introduced a payment relief programme for residents and businesses struggling to pay their municipal bills.



MMC: Economic Development, Tourism & Agriculture
Cllr Marlon Daniels

This City is a major tourist destination, and we observed with great concern the decline in the local tourism industry following lockdown. An incentives programme was introduced, and altogether 96 local accommodation facilities have benefitted from these accommodation investment retention incentives, when their municipal accounts were credited to the value of R4 857 194.16. Although 108 applications for this assistance were received, not all met the requirements, commented the delighted MMC for Economic Development, Cllr Marlon Daniels: "Although there was support for some tourism establishments from national government, they could not assist everyone and the support was simply not enough to

ensure that these businesses do not close. As local government, we had to look at identifying opportunities and how the city could support the tourism sector and thus the Investment Retention incentives were offered. Hopefully we can get tourism back up and running soon without too much damage to the tourism sector."

Fighting the virus:

With its staff, the institution is attacking and fighting the COVID-19 with all the tools available to it: decontamination of buildings, temperature screening, COVID-19 education, compliance inspections and procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE).

As at 29 June 2020, a total of 486 employees (including NPO and EPWP participants) were trained as Compliance representatives in order to assist the Municipality with both temperature and symptom screening, in line with COVID-19 Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) directive requirements.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Public Health Directorate, work streams have been established to assist the Municipality in developing technical protocols, to formulate programmes for internal and external communities and to update legislation and amend it thereafter.

The work streams include: Health surveillance, which is responsible for the disinfection and decontamination of buildings; Contact tracing, which is in charge of tracking and tracing all COVID-19 positive cases, both internally and externally; Hazardous waste disposal, responsible for the disposal of all contaminated, hazardous medical waste; Health education, which handles awareness, training and information sharing sessions for both internal and external communities; and Occupational health and safety,

which handles the screening and testing of employees, inspection of workplaces for covid-19 compliance, debriefing and counselling of employees, and wellness related awareness and training.

Key in all this is the institution's Compliance Officer, Ms Bukelwa Vetyeka.

An important recent development was the establishment of COVID-19 Ward-based Task Teams, which will work on grassroots level to educate local communities about the virus and instruct them in prevention and care.

Our beaches are still off limit:

A special appeal to residents has been received from the NMBM Beaches and Resorts Subdirector to comply with Level 3 lockdown Regulations, having noted an influx in group gatherings, sport activities and drinking along the beachfront as residents flock to the City's beaches on warmer days.

Our beaches are still closed. As such, there are no lifeguards present on municipal beaches.

The following places and premises are closed to the public and gatherings at these places are prohibited:

- All beaches along the coastline within the jurisdiction of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) are closed for all activities, except for recreational fishing. Residents may walk and run along the beachfront promenade whilst wearing a face mask and observing social distancing.
- The Shark Rock Pier in Summerstrand.
- Parks and Recreational Public Open Spaces, except for the purpose of healthy lifestyle activities such as exercising.
- Springs Resort in Uitenhage and Beachview Resort.
- Braai facilities at Maitland's and along Marine Drive.
- Toilet facilities along the beachfront.

The Municipality is appealing to residents to cooperate with the authorities and to not disregard the Regulations.



Tribute to beloved Dr Chabula

Safe-circumcision activist who devoted her life to helping others

She was a trailblazer, a rule-breaker, an icon and a pioneer. Dr Elizabeth Mamisa Chabula-Nxiweni, who retired from the Municipality in 2015, passed away on 22 July 2020 at the age of 72 years. As a medical professional, she was a pioneer, leaving an immense legacy in healthcare to the people of this city and the broader Eastern Cape. And as a person, she earned herself the love and respect of all - also of many municipal staff members, who are now mourning her sudden passing.

With a searing intellect, compassionate and kind nature and unflinching dedication to the health and wellbeing of the people of the Bay and the broader Eastern Cape, she had a deep insight in human nature that only decades-long service as general practitioner (in Motherwell) and as an ordained minister of religion (Presbyterian) could give.

It was as a general practitioner in Motherwell three decades ago that Dr Chabula met her greatest challenge: and that in the hypersensitive subject of male circumcision. Dozens of young Eastern Cape men were dying every year as untrained traditional surgeons botched the circumcisions. Many more were condemned to lives of pain, mutilation and misery. But the subject was strictly taboo for Dr Chabula: after all, she was a woman, and initiation and circumcision belonged strictly in a man's world. But, in the early evenings, she would close up her practice, switch off the lights, and wait. And soon they would emerge: desperate fathers from Motherwell with their young sons, battling infection and pain. Dr Chabula's brother would constantly be at her

side during these secret appointments; although not a doctor himself, his presence as a male was a respectful nod to ancient traditions. She cleaned her patients' septic wounds, applied appropriate medication, and dressed their mutilated penises. Many young men she saved; some she lost. Some she assisted and supported through reconstructive surgery to restore normal functioning, as far as possible.

Soon, Dr Chabula decided to intervene with government. She was a formidable advocate for her cause. Government listened, and her intervention, in defiance of traditional norms, saw legislation enacted to ensure safe circumcision and proper training for traditional surgeons. Through the promulgation of the Application of Health Standards for Traditional Circumcision Act, which saw a significant reduction in medical complications in traditional circumcision, she saved the lives of many young men of the City and the broader province.

For this, Dr Chabula paid a heavy price, as years of vilification and professional isolation followed, but she persisted. "I have no regrets. I had to take a stand."

As the Municipality's Executive Director of Public Health over the period 2008 to 2013, Dr Chabula's door was always open, and many passed through it, as recalled by her distraught former Secretary, Teresa Wiegand. All who entered, left encouraged, uplifted and strengthened - and just a little in love with this beautiful, gracious, wise and motherly woman. Many still treasure the moments they could spend with her, and her wise counsel. Few could fail to



In humble devotion to iconic Doctor Elizabeth Mamisa Chabula-Nxiweni



Dr Chabula with loyal Secretary Teresa Wiegand

realise that they had just been in contact with a remarkable human being.

"She really believed in women empowerment," reminisced Teresa. "And not many people knew that she had a photographic memory."

Her legacy as head of the Municipality's Public Health Directorate is still around us, in the form of parks, playgrounds, improved beach facilities and waste management strategies and facilities. And we won national Greenest City awards twice during her tenure.

Before she joined the Municipality, Dr Chabula served inter alia as a high school teacher in Mathematics and Science, as well as a lecturer at the University of Transkei (1978 to 1981). She

graduated from Medunsa top of her class in 1986, earning her MB.Ch.B. while having the last two of her ten children.

Dr Chabula's Christian faith was legendary and unshakable, and the rockbed of her lifelong devotion to serving our communities and contributing to their social and economic upliftment through meaningful health programmes, which she identified as one of her major aims in life.

Hers was a rich, full life, and she led or was involved in many community projects. A major legacy was her contribution in the field of HIV/AIDS, working both in the government sector and as a volunteer in community groups. She succeeded in mentoring, empowering and enabling junior doctors and nurses to take on the challenge of HIV.

In a 'thank you' to the community of Motherwell for supporting her in her practice and educating her children for twenty years, she in 2000 established the Emmanuel Aids Haven in Motherwell in support of AIDS patients and their families.

Dr Chabula earned a plethora of accolades over her lifetime, both locally and internationally: the Health Category Award of the 2007 World Leadership Awards for the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (for the Emmanuel Haven); the Impumelele Innovation Trust Award for the Emmanuel Haven; the EP Herald and Mayor's Citizen of the Year

Award in 1997; the Rotary Club Achievement Award in 1998; the Methodist Church Achievement Award; the Businesswoman of the Year Award - Eastern Cape 2001; Finalist in SABC Woman of the Year Award (Health Category) in 2001; and the UPE Prestige Award for work done in community health (2002).

Dr Mamisa's passing followed shortly on yet another honour bestowed upon her: the naming after her of the 1 450 bed COVID-19 Field Hospital in Uitenhage for the legacy of excellence and compassion she has embodied in health care', as voiced by national Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize.

Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Thsonono Buyeye paid tribute to Dr Chabula: "Her death leaves an unfillable void. Some of the developments contributing to the sustainable development of the City were introduced under her leadership as Executive Director of Public Health.

"Nelson Mandela Bay will never be the same without Dr Chabula. We wish her family strength during this difficult time of mourning and pray for their healing."

The supreme blessing and great love in Dr Chabula's life was undoubtedly her ten children - five girls and five boys - whom she raised as a single mother after an early divorce. Among them are four medical doctors, three chartered accountants and an engineer.

The many who knew her are sharing the many anecdotes - many tragic, many hilariously funny - she told from her rich and eventful life, some touching on her days as a political activist and her political prisoner family. She was a true raconteur, but never malicious, always respectful. They recall her quick wit, that she was a true peacemaker who hated conflict between people, active and energetic, and that no matter how high her status and standing, she would always put the interests of others above her own - every single time.

All achieved, all crammed into the space of just 72 years. Not bad for a child of a Malaysian traditional healer - her much beloved father - and a domestic worker, who grew up in the slum area of Korsten, the only girl among nine boys.

Rest in glory, Doctor Chabula - we love and live in you!



STANDING FOR VICTORY:
At the launch of the Dr Elizabeth Mamisa Chabula-Nxiweni COVID-19 Field Hospital in Uitenhage that is named in her honour

My journey with the Coronavirus

Meet Philanathi Rasmeni, *Bay News* journalist, who has been bringing the readers of Bay News stories ever since the tabloid was launched in 2018. She's also a survivor of the Coronavirus. Now recovered, Phila agreed to share her story with us.

What were your symptoms?

On the first day, my body was feeling tired and I could not concentrate at work. On the second day, sneezing and severe headaches set in. At home now, on the third day, my eyes were swollen and painful. My chest started locking up, and I developed a dry cough. That's when I grew worried and decided to go for testing at the provincial clinic in Central. Something was very wrong: I could not hold my breath for even just a few seconds.

Were you exposed to somebody who had tested positive?

I was using public transport to go to work. But I followed all the precautionary measures, such as wearing a mask, washing hands regularly and sanitising.

So the clinic called with your results?

Yes. I was positive. Reality struck: I could have infected my 13-year old sister, Endinako. The doctor then reassured me that statistics show that fewer children tend to become infected.

I'm a legal guardian to my siblings; we are a child-headed family. I was told that it would be safe to isolate with my sister. My wonderful flatmate Bathandwa encouraged me to keep calm and focus on my recovery. As a journalist, I already knew that the Coronavirus doesn't discriminate and that as there's no vaccine yet, it is up to people to control its spread and protect one another.

Tell us about quarantine?

It was not easy to maintain the strict routine of steaming and drinking home remedies, clean almost everything that you use separately, remind your sister not to come close

to you, keep your mind relaxed while people are losing their lives. For the first six days, my body was not coping: my chest was painfully tight, especially at night. I self-isolated at home throughout my journey. When my sister started to sneeze, we had her tested. Her results came back after three days as positive.

You obviously were not prepared for two weeks of self isolation?

I was feeling lonely, but I decided to shift my focus from negative thinking to gratitude for being given another day to live.

My team at the Municipality made this easy for me because they were very supportive and did not give me pressure to return to work. I spent most of the time in bed, in my pyjamas.

Did you have family members to assist you?

I'm grateful to have a very supportive family. My big sister cooked and shared warm meals with me. She would buy all the essential stuff such as toiletries and water and drop them off downstairs. My younger brother assisted with shopping for the necessities, including refilling the immune boosters or PPE and buying still water or warm clothes, because we were told that we must eat warm food, wear warm clothes and stay in a warm room.

We had to limit sharing the kitchen and bathroom with our flatmate, keeping to our room most of the time. On going to the bathroom, we had to wear a mask and sanitise almost every surface that we touched. I was advised by Public Health colleagues to mix bleach with dishwashing liquid and water in a spray bottle and keep decontaminating the most touched areas.

From the 8th day I started to feel better, and even ventured to undertake some mild exercise, either in my bedroom or in the lounge. I complied with the regulations of staying in my room fully until the last day to protect others.

I think it was a mild case and since I am still young, my body fought back. However, it was not an easy battle at all.



Back to business: Phila ready for work in the NMBM Communications Office

What did you take medicine wise?

Painblocks, a cough mixture, sinus tablets and throat lozenges.

My own home remedies included garlic, ginger, cayenne pepper, turmeric and lemon, raw onion, rubbing my chest and back, doing chest exercises, such as blowing a balloon, taking Vitamin C, Zinc and Multivitamins, and standing in the sun for a few minutes.

This sickness was not budgeted for and brought lots of expenses. So I would advise people to set some savings apart.

When you reached your two weeks cut-off time, did you feel 100 percent healthy?

No, up until today I am no longer myself. I suffer from a number of after-effects: my throat and chest took time to heal and, on a cold day, they still hurt.

In my research I found that I am not alone in this; many recoverees experience this. We feel the after-effects at least for three months. This virus is harsh.

Did you experience any stigmatization?

Yes, but it was usually not direct, but I could notice the reaction. Some people made unacceptable comments and statements. However, the love and support I experienced from my family, colleagues, flatmate and friends made all the difference.

What is your message for residents?

Arrange a support system or submit yourself to an isolation site such as the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium. Most people who stayed at the Stadium talk very highly of their treatment there, and it has a high number of recoveries.

Concentrate on your healing. Keep yourself warm, stay home, use immune boosters even before getting sick. Personally I believe that it aided my recovery.

A phone call can make a huge difference in someone's life. If you can afford ginger and lemon or PPE, please give some to the less fortunate.

If we stand together, we can beat the virus.

IN MOURNING: WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize has announced that there are now over **530 000** cases of the Coronavirus in South Africa with nearly 10 000 South Africans who have lost their lives to the virus.

Few companies or families in Nelson Mandela Bay have remain unscathed by the disease and some have experienced sickness or death. The restrictions around hospital visits, burials and gatherings are depriving bereaved families and colleagues of the opportunity to say a final goodbye. Sadly, mourners are also deprived of the full support and solace brought by others, just when they need it most. This greatly adds to the trauma experienced.

The Municipality wishes to convey its sincerest condolences to all families in the City who have lost a loved one in the pandemic. We know that you are carrying a heavy burden. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of loss.

The Municipality itself has recorded a number of deaths among staff. Many of them were pillars of service delivery to our residents, stalwarts in the Municipality - and now, so suddenly, they are gone. We salute each and every one of them for their contribution and the many years that they spent in serving the institution and the communities of the Bay. Their legacy and memory will remain with us: Rest in peace, dear colleagues.

We wish to appeal to all residents and communities to support the sick, the elderly and the vulnerable, especially those who are entirely housebound because of age or comorbidities. Loneliness can be a killer: do make that phone call, show your concern and support, and offer your help. Now more than ever we need to show compassion, empathy and care.

To all residents infected by the virus or who are in isolation or quarantine at home: our very best wishes and prayers for your or your loved one's speedy and full recovery.

'Mr Fix-It' and his team that never sleeps



RRTT Coordinator Zonile Ndoni (centre) with NMBM COO Mandla George

Lockdown? The entire country may be in slowdown, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but not the Nelson Mandela bay Municipality's Rapid Response Task Team (RRTT). They have not slackened their pace at all, never ceasing to amaze the residents of the Metro with accelerated service delivery.

Heading the team is 'Mr Fix-It' himself, Zonile Ndoni. It is said that few, if any, in the Municipality can match his passion, energy and commitment in serving the communities of the Bay. A winner in June 2019 of the coveted Batho Pele Awards for service delivery, hosted by the Provincial Government, Mr Ndoni is quick to turn

attention away from himself unto his team. "Whenever there is a long-outstanding complaint from residents or when a quick intervention is needed, my team will intervene."

Mr Ndoni explains that the RRTT and the Municipality's Service Delivery Call Centre work very closely together. The RRTT only deals with complaints already reported at the Call Centre that already have reference numbers, which they then escalate to relevant Operational Teams on the ground for swift intervention.

In certain instances, the RRTT Office may also deal with emergency complaints, even if a reference number has

not yet been issued, such as hazardous exposed electricity cables, burst pipes, sewage flooding properties, water and electricity outages, and deep open drain holes and trenches.

Urgent complaints and appeals for assistance reach them through the Political Leadership, Ward Councillors, Municipal social platforms and Government Departments. However, all complaints must first be reported to the Call Centre (0800 20 50 50), to get the essential reference number before escalation to the RRTT.

RRTT Coordinator from the Mayoral Office, Mr Zonile Ndoni, has committed the Task Team to all-time availability (24/7) to serve communities in times of need.

Mr Ndoni wishes to remind residents that they will not benefit from taking a chance and escalating complaints to the RRTT Office without reference numbers. Only unresolved and reported complaints with reference numbers can be escalated to the RRTT office via SMS, phone call or WhatsApp to 082 520 1256.

Mr Ndoni, who has been leading the RRTT for the past ten years, is very passionate about the team's active contribution towards improving the living conditions of needy local communities.

The success of the RRTT depends heavily on hard-working service delivery orientated officials in all Municipal Directorates.

A new challenge on the horizon. "When the Premier of the Eastern Cape gave a directive for the establishment of COVID-19 related Ward-based Rapid Response Task Teams, I was requested by the NMBM Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Tshonono Buyeye, to be actively involved, since my team and I already possess vast knowledge and experience of RRTTs." "We have already moved off the ground, working closely with the Provincial Health Department's District Office, NMBM Disaster Management, Public Health and all other relevant stakeholders. So far we have introduced the concept in local COVID-19 hotspot areas to raise awareness of the virus and the importance of precautionary measures among the public", Mr Fix-it concluded. The Fix-It Team has deployed all Ward based Mayoral Coordinators to serve in all Ward based structures, in terms of their deployment areas.

- The RRTT's involvement with COVID-19 related Ward-based Rapid Response Task Teams is focused on bringing COVID-19 related information

and services closer to our communities and giving them an opportunity to submit service delivery related complaints "right on their doorsteps".

Special appeal by Councillor Queenie Pink, Member of the Mayoral Committee for Safety & Security:

"While we strive to bring services closer to our communities or swiftly attend to or resolve service delivery related complaints, we have a general serious problem affecting most areas or Wards: Our Operational Teams on the ground get robbed or attacked by irresponsible members of our communities. Their wallets, cell phones and any essential items are taken. Dedicated, efficient officials, not only from the Municipality, but also from SASSA, Home Affairs, Social Department, Health Department and recently Officials bringing COVID-19 related support and awareness, are attacked or robbed. They end up being reluctant to go to these "hotspot" areas with high crime rates. The result? Our communities suffer.

"We therefore request all our residents and communities to join hands and support and escort our Officials when coming into your area to provide essential services."

NMBM 2020/21 IDP and Budget speak to realities of COVID-19

On 29 June 2020, at a virtual meeting conducted at four different venues in the CBD area, the NMBM Council adopted its 2020/2021 IDP and Budget. The IDP (the Integrated Development Plan is the Municipality's key planning tool) was prepared to comply with relevant legislation, but also to ensure a good platform for recovery from COVID-19. After it was first noted by Council on 15 June 2020, a lot of refinement took place, with municipal Directorates identifying the impact of COVID-19 and sector priorities. In addition, input from external stakeholders such as local business Chambers, Transnet and Coega was integrated. The IDP was also reworked to reflect and highlight the impact of COVID-19 on the Municipality going forward.

The adoption was preceded by the usual annual review process, during which the Municipality reviewed the IDP, its key medium-term planning instrument, as well as the Budget allocated to implement this plan. Altogether 2584 registered attendees participated in the first round of these public participation meetings, held in September and October 2019.

However, the Coronavirus interfered with IDP processes: the mandatory public participation process to give residents an opportunity to give input into the shaping of the City's future and the development of their own residential areas was threatened by the social distancing required. Municipal officials quickly adapted, introducing a digital and online public participation



NMBM Chief Financial Officer Selwyn Thys

programme for the second round of public participation.

As always, the eyes were on the Budget. NMBM Chief Financial Officer Selwyn Thys has confirmed that a number of changes had been made to the Budget following the public participation process. "Property rates were proposed at 8.5%, but we have reduced this to 6%. Water, sanitation and refuse have been reduced to 6%, down from the proposed increase of 8%. Electricity stays at the original 6.22% proposed

increase."

Housing is a key priority for the residents of Nelson Mandela Bay.

The Municipality allocated R226 million of the 2020-2021 Budget towards Human Settlement projects, in line with the needs of residents and demands by COVID-19 regulations, which prioritise the de-densification of residential areas to curb the spread of the virus. The money will be used to construct roads, stormwater, water supply, sewer lines and parks at different sites across the City.

With the R226 million allocation, residents from Khayamandi Extension, KwaNobuhle, Ekuphumleni in KwaZakhele can expect their housing sites to be serviced allowing for residents to move in when the time comes.

R31.7 million has also been

allocated for the Walmer Development, R12.1 million for the Motherwell NU30 project, and R22.2 million towards the Missionvale Garden Lots project.

NMBM Acting Mayor Councillor Thsonono Buyeye said: "Human Settlements plays a vital role in the fight against COVID-19. We saw it fit to allocate this Budget as this will ensure that residents are not overpopulated in one place. This also speaks to the dignity of our people."

- The 2020/21 IDP and Budget are available for inspection inter alia at the IDP Office, which is located on the Ground Floor, Noninzi Luziphfo Building, Cnr of Whites Road and Baakens Street and on the municipal website: www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za

MMC Bobani commits to deliver basic services on time in NMBM

Residents should brace themselves for stricter water restrictions to help save water as our City continues to battle against drought.

The Restrictions, captured in water Notice 8, were signed by NMBM Acting Executive Mayor Councillor Thsonono Buyeye on Wednesday, 5 August 2020 after supply dam levels dropped to 17.46% on Monday, 3 August 2020.

Mayor Buyeye confirmed his approval of the tighter restrictions during a media briefing on Thursday, 6 August 2020, which was held at City Hall by the new NMBM Portfolio head for Infrastructure and Engineering, Electricity and Energy, Councillor Mongameli Bobani, to outline his key priorities.

Councillor Bobani said residents would be compelled to use 50 litres a day per person per day in all households.

In terms of the new restrictions, flow meter restrictors will be installed for all domestic consumers to

reduce water pressure in order to reduce losses.

All users who use water excessively, be warned: a flow meter restrictor that will limit your water usage to 15 kilolitres per month will be installed at your home. Local industrial and commercial users and institutions will be requested to reduce their consumption by at least 20%.

“We will introduce restrictions at 50 local schools that are wasting or highly consuming water. We will conduct a comprehensive community water conservation campaign for consumers to reduce their water consumption to 250 megalitres a day,” said MMC Bobani.

The Municipality has prioritised the fixing of water leaks across the City, which have wasted thousands of litres of clean water.

“For the last two months, the Municipality has fixed 15 729 leaks out of the backlog of 16 665 by using seven cluster contractors. The Municipality will be in time to finish the remaining 936 leaks as well



From left, NMBM Acting Executive Director: Electricity & Energy Luvuyo Magalela, NMBM Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Thsonono Buyeye, new NMBM MMC: Infrastructure, Engineering, Electricity & Energy Cllr Mongameli Bobani and NMBM Director: Water Distribution Joseph Tsatsire

as fixing new leaks by using the seven cluster contractors,” said Bobani, adding that the current budget of R505 million for water and sanitation would inter alia be used for the drilling of boreholes, the rehabilitation of the Loerie Water Treatment Works, the construction of the Coegakop Water Treatment Works facility and the purchase and installation of water meters.

He urged residents to continue to save water and

report water leaks.

As part of the City’s plans to save electricity losses, MMC Bobani said the City would focus on renewable energy during the current financial year.

“Our mission is to develop a resilient infrastructure and electricity networks that accommodate growth and create sustainable opportunities for all our residents. We will implement renewable energy and

alternative energy technologies that will ensure the future sustainability and universal access to electricity for all residents. One of our biggest problems as the City is electricity losses and the Auditor General has also identified that.”

“In the Electricity and Energy Directorate, we have a Capital budget of R177 million for this financial year. We’ll do some public lighting and quite a number of other projects with the budget, and electrify 3 000 households at a cost of R35 million.

“We will install and upgrade 1700 residential lights - no more darkness - we have R20 million for that and for infrastructure refurbishment on electricity we have R36 million during this financial year. We will provide smart metering at a cost of R17 million,” he said.

The City will reintroduce the free wi-fi connectivity programme throughout the City, which was previously halted due to financial constraints.

New-look municipal website is informative and easy to use

The Municipality’s official website at www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za is an important communications platform on which the institution keeps residents and visitors up to date with the latest news on the government of their city. Municipal programmes and events are introduced, while many visitors head straight for the tender and vacancy sections. The website also offers extensive information on the twin crises facing the City, namely the Coronavirus and the Drought related water crisis.

Recently, the municipal website underwent extensive revamping and upgrading. The entire website, including

both back-end and front ends, was redeveloped to include upgrades such as intelligence-driven searches, simplified navigation and a complete custom-made icon set (276 new icons were developed). Complete website functionality and navigation is now available from all pages with one click only.

Providing a website that caters for everyone’s needs is a tricky business, but practical considerations like speed, user-friendliness, security, technical details, search engine optimisation and aesthetics had to be kept in mind.

So what’s new?

A very user friendly change



is that everything is now accessible directly from the home page! See the image for a brief explanation of what you can access directly from the home page.

From the red footer at the bottom of the home page, you can access services such as FAQ, A-Z telephone directory, Contact us and Share to social media. Click on the “+” to open the footer area for more options like Newsletter subscription, Switchboard

number, give website feedback and report fraud and corruption.

If you click on FOR ME at the top of the Home page, you will access useful information like Subsidies and Rebates, be able to give your input on the IDP, and take part in Surveys, Complaints/Compliments, and see documents that are open for public comment.

Click on the HOW CAN WE HELP YOU tab to Apply/Request services, view any

loadshedding schedules, etc. But a website is best explored by the user personally. So please join the 180 000 visitors who use the website every month! And if you do, treat yourself to one of our upgraded Virtual Tours to see what our City has to offer.

Should you want to contribute or be part of this platform, please contact the Municipality’s Webmaster: webmaster@mandelametro.gov.za **Enjoy!**

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum goes virtual!

Visit the Museum from the comfort of your home

Their doors may be closed for now, but read more below of the innovative virtual plans staff at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum has devised for your art enjoyment.

Access the Museum’s collections online:

Simply go to the Museum’s website at www.artmuseum.co.za, and under the tab DATA COLLECTION, select SEARCH THE COLLECTION – and view over 1 000 fabulous works from our collection online.

Enjoy our virtual tour:

The originals are out of sight for now during the lockdown, but you can still see world-class art during a virtual tour of the exhibition ‘PASSAGES’ at the Municipality’s Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum.

This new initiative by Art Museum staff has had

a fantastic response from art lovers and bored locked downers, who are loving their virtual tour through the past and present, both real and imaginary.

Assistant Director of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum, Emma O’Brien said: “Our target audience is everyone who has access to internet. One of the advantages of virtual is that both local communities and international audiences can view our exhibitions. It helps us to promote our collection to the world. Our virtual tour is so popular that we are planning another one of our exhibition celebrating local art.”

Interested? To access the virtual tour, residents are encouraged to go to www.nmbm.co.za/virtual-tours/virtual-tours/passages. The tour includes an introduction

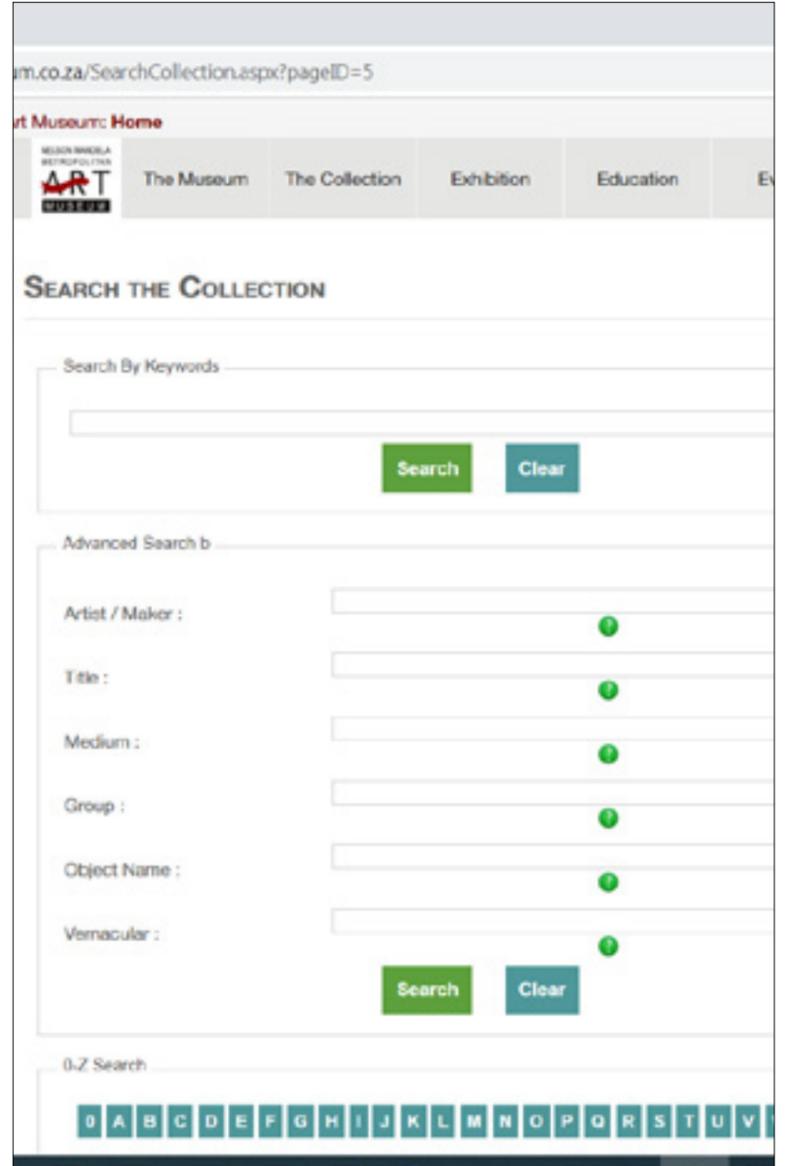
in English and IsiXhosa. Click on INFO for an introduction in English and ULWAZI for an introduction in IsiXhosa, and then click on each of the artworks for more detailed information.

Join online campaign ‘Life in the Time of COVID-19:

Share images of the most creative masks you have made or seen. You can send images and brief descriptions to: nmm.artmuseum1956@gmail.com and we will post this on our Facebook page.

Promoting our artists on Facebook and Instagram:

The Museum has used the platforms of Facebook and Instagram to promote local artists who are currently on exhibition at the Museum. Please check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates.



Name of artist: Pemba, George Milwa Mnyaluza
 Title of artwork: Township Granny
 Medium: Water Colour
 Date: 1950

Friendly gesture: Art Packs distributed among local art studios

The Friends of the Art Museum, in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum in Rink Street, has sponsored art packs for distribution among youth art groups in various communities across the Metro. While the Museum is currently closed to the public, the Friends decided to support local NGOs who use art to uplift the lives of kids from impoverished communities.

The Hand in Hand Visual Art Studio and ArtWorks for Youth were identified as the first recipients of the art packs.

The Hand in Hand Visual Art Studio is based in Motherwell NU1, while ArtWorks for Youth is located in Joe Slovo. The Hand in Hand Visual Art Studio was founded by Sakhumzi Nyendwana and his brother Msindisi as an art gallery and tourist attraction. Their focus is on the upliftment of the community, especially

the children, by providing art education and serving as a space of inspiration for the local community and tourists. The Gallery space is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19.

During the hand-over of the art packs to the Visual Art Studio, Assistant Director of the NMM Art Museum, Emma O’Brien explained: “The first art packs include an art journal and drawing material. Art journals are an important way for learners to experiment and express their creativity. They also help learners to reflect on life during COVID-19 lockdown.”

The Education Assistant from the Art Museum, Amanda Heshu, prepared exercises for the learners and will keep in contact with both organisations to provide support and receive updates on what the students have done.

Yamkela Vayo, a learner

from Artworks for Youth, enthusiastically welcomed the initiative, saying that it would promote social cohesion within the community.

“By drawing what is going on, we can show our communities that we are not alone in dealing with this pandemic. We need these journals to express ourselves through the eyes of art,” said Vaya.

Both the Hand in Hand Visual Art Studio and ArtWorks for Youth have found themselves on the frontline during this pandemic, handing out food parcels and other support to local communities in need.

The Friends of the Art Museum and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum staff appeal to residents for donations of art supplies so that more art packs can be donated to learners throughout the City.

Nelson Mandela Bay bids farewell to two sporting icons

Boxing loses great administrators

Nelson Mandela Bay boxing is mourning the passing recently of two administrators who laid a firm foundation in the development of this noble sport.

Former Eastern Province (EP) Boxing Control Commission Chairperson Tennyson Mackay (94) died peacefully in his sleep at his Rabie Street home in Korsten two weeks ago; while well-known businessman Thobile "Toast" Mali (63), a former professional boxer, trainer, manager and promoter from KwaMagxaki, succumbed to COVID-19 illness a week later.

Mackay was the Chairperson of the Professional Boxing Board during the turbulent 1990s in the country. This Pondoland-born leader who spoke isiXhosa fluently was not scared of going to KwaZakhele, New Brighton, Motherwell and KwaNobuhle to supervise weigh-ins and tournaments.

Some boxing fundis associate the success of the Port Elizabeth-born but Cape Town-based boxing Whiteboy brothers, Bramley, Chris and Derrick, with their trainer father Les, with the great work of Mackay's administration.

Mackay was at the helm when Gladys "Noforty" Tsenene emerged as the first woman in the country to promote boxing in the early 1990s.

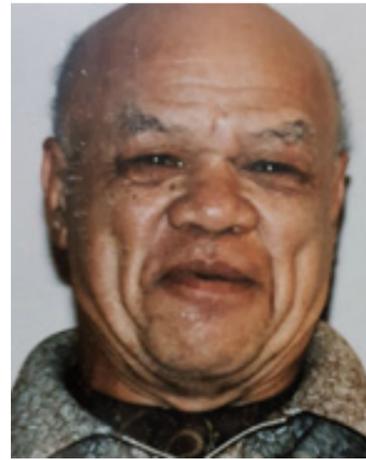
"He (Mackay) falls amongst (those) who did not just live life, but also made a contribution to broader society. He was a community builder, a school principal, a known disciplinarian and an astute administrator who was a living legend," said his daughter Illva Mackay.

"He refereed my second professional fight in 1963, and I've learnt a lot from him," said former pro boxer and International BSA Ring Official

Terrance "Ace" Makaluza, who worked with Mackay after his days in the ring as a boxer, while BSA Female Ring Official Nonelwa Fukutwa, the second woman in the country to judge and referee pro boxing, after East London's Siya Vabaza-Booi, also thanks Mackay for giving her the opportunity.

Toast Mali lists former South African (SA) Lightweight and Junior Welterweight champion Nika "The Sting" Khumalo of Cape Town and East London's Goodman "Papa" Njova in his short CV in the ring. It is outside the ring that his boxing development started brightening up, from the 1990s.

Local boxing stars who challenged for provincial and national boxing titles, like Cingile Sandi, Zolani Makubalo and Koko Tshamlambo, are among the boxers that property developer Toast, a tavern owner who was also



Former Eastern Province (EP) Boxing Control Commission Chairperson Tennyson Mackay



Former professional boxer, trainer, manager and promoter Thobile "Toast" Mali

involved in the taxi industry, produced.

Toast's immense contribution as an international boxing promoter was beyond reproach, said boxing manager Caiphus Ntante, who attributes his success to the advice Toast gave him.

Mali's children thanked their father for loving them and caring, adding that he was a great teacher.

"He taught us the importance of education and the principles of successful business and leadership," said his daughter Nosi Ncoyo.

Both Mackay and Mali were laid to rest last week under the

COVID-19 level 3 Lockdown rules and regulations for burials.

Nelson Mandela Bay's Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture Executive Director Noxolo Nqwazi passed sincere condolences to the two families on the untimely passing of the sporting legends.

(BSA) Provincial Manager Nceba Dladla said, "We needed their knowledge and skills in the resurgence of boxing but equally thank them for their immense contribution which helped metro get the respect of being known as The Mecca of Pugilism in the country."

Chippa United in 'do or die' battle to stay in Premier Soccer League

Nelson Mandela-based Premier Soccer League (PSL) outfit Chippa United will be determined to keep its Premier status when the League resumes this week.

Chippa United FC will take on Cape Town City FC at the Orlando Stadium, Johannesburg on Friday, 14 August in a must-win match. Kick-off is at 3:30pm. This, as the Absa Premier League games resume this week.

The Chilli Boys, as the only Eastern Cape-based PSL team is popular known, is currently sitting at Number 12 in the Premier log standing after 24 matches since the Coronavirus lockdown in March. With Sports Minister Nathi Mthethwa allowing football to return and finish the outstanding games, albeit

without spectators, a do or die battle should be expected, with teams competing to finish in a commanding position in the Absa Premier League will be bringing their A games.

With six games to go, against equally determined teams, Eastern Cape and Nelson Mandela Bay football lovers in particular, are pinning their hopes on the experience and technical abilities of former Bloemfontein Celtic coach Lehlohonolo Seema, who has just started coaching the Chilli Boys.

Retaining their place in the League is possible, especially if the almost four months' break as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown has had little or no effect on the team.

Quoted in The Herald of Tuesday 4 August, however,

Chippa United's Chief Operationing Officer (COO) Lukhanyo Mzinzi believes that Chairman Siviwe "Chippa" Mpengesi's team has the potential not only to remain in the Premiership, but also to make a Top Eight Finish.

This, despite the fact that the Chilli Boys are only three points above relegation-threatened Baroka FC, Polokwane City and Amazulu and only six points above Black Leopards, who're occupying the 16th position.

"We think we need to win the first three games to make sure that we are completely out of relegation," Mzinzi said, adding that in six games they still had 18 points to play for, so, anything was still possible.

After Friday's game, Chippa United's fixtures are as follows:

- They play against Highlands Park on 18 August
- Versus Baroka FC on 22 August
- Versus Stellenbosch FC on 28 August
- Versus Kaizer Chiefs on 2 September
- And against Golden Arrows on 5 September

New Chippa United Coach Lehlohonolo Seema, looks to steer the Chilli Boys' ship to remain in the Premier Soccer League

