

Lebina Leads the Way



Lebina Shabe, Project Coordinator for the ERP, says a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes before the results are visible on the ground.

Lebina Shabe is a soft-spoken, very humble and friendly looking guy. Despite his calm and friendly demeanour you can definitely sense strength of character and nerves of steel. Shabe is the project coordinator for the Evaton Renewal Project from the Gauteng Department of Housing. His responsibilities are to ensure that all assets of the project are in good order and that the project is flowing correctly, including project selection and procurement.

"The inception of government programmes within the ERP first goes through a rigorous planning and co-ordination process. We start by running a consultation or community engagement and then plan a project that will cater to the community's most immediate needs," said Shabe. "We then present this to our consultants who do feasibility studies and these studies are then presented to our stakeholders, including the local municipality, to ensure that the proposed projects are in line with their plans," he added.

EDF Secretary - Young and Committed -



Themba Qhinebe is a young Evatonian dedicated to seeing the community of Evaton reap the rewards of the Evaton Renewal Project. He was recently elected the new secretary of the Evaton Development Forum and says he is fully committed to his daily tasks. "The Evaton Renewal Project has improved many of the people's quality of life in Evaton. Many people who were previously living in mud houses now have decent roofs over their heads! The ERP has also benefited many stand owners and has assisted people with disabilities, pensioners and the unemployed," said Qhinebe.

Hellos & Goodbyes

Local Intern Climbs the Corporate Ladder: Former Communications Intern, Selinah Qai, was appointed in a Johannesburg law firm as a filing clerk in October. Qai said she is extremely grateful for the experience and training she received in the ERP internship programme.



Brenda Ndllovu resigned as the Administrator of the Evaton Development Forum in September 2008. The ERP wishes her well in her future career.



Ntokozi Precious Motha has been appointed as the new Administrator of the Evaton Development Forum. "I have been living in this community all my life and I am glad to be given this opportunity to take part in developing my own community," says Ntokozi.



Building a Solid Foundation

Sibongile Khumalo is the leader of the Evaton-based and women-owned construction company, sub-contracted to build the show houses and the Temporary Relocation Houses for the Evaton Renewal Project. Before she became a successful contractor, Khumalo worked as an office administrator at a construction company. She admits that starting a company from scratch was no plain sailing.

"Siyanyuka Singabomame Construction Company started in 2006. It was started by myself and a group of women from Evaton. After realising that I had a love for the construction industry, I took a short course in brick-laying and in entrepreneurship. I then started attending Nafcoc workshops on training and construction management," said Khumalo.

These workshops boosted Khumalo's skills base and helped shape her career as a building contractor. Her team has many achievements that they can be proud of. They built 500 RDP houses in Sasol and also in Tshepiso, Sharpeville. They also took part in the building of the Palm Springs Filling Station and houses in Beverly Hills.



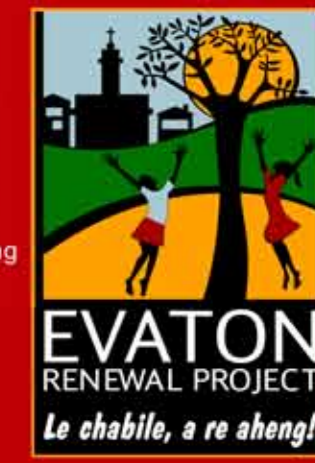
Sibongile Khumalo, building a solid foundation for the people of Evaton.

Volume 7
December

Evaton NEWS



Department of Housing



Evaton Celebrates ERP Progress

Friday 3 October 2008 was a day of many celebrations for the people of Evaton. About two thousand local residents gathered at a gala event, held at the Mafatsane Centre, Union Road, in Evaton. The day was hosted by the Gauteng Office of the Premier and the MEC for Housing, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane.



ERP Marshalls escort MEC Mokonyane and Mayor Mshudulu into the grounds at Mafatsane

The completion of the first upgraded houses was celebrated and cheques were handed over to people who sold their land to the Evaton Renewal Project. MEC Nomvula Mokonyane also officially unveiled the upgraded Tshelo Themba Hall and delivered four brand new waste management trucks as a gift from the Department of Housing to the Executive Mayor of Emfuleni, Cllr Assistance Mshudulu. The Evaton Thusong Centre was also launched on the day and everyone enjoyed the party atmosphere and a packed lunch. The programme included speeches, presentations, traditional dancers and local entertainment.



The people of Evaton celebrate the achievements of the ERP.

Budding Poets Show their Talent

Three learners who were short listed in the ERP Women's Day Poetry Competition were invited to read their poems to the audience at the Thusong Launch. Busisiwe Pati of Thabeng Primary School, Adelia Hlakulane of Evaton Primary School and Kgotso Mokoena from Tshelo Themba Secondary School gave stunning performances of their creative poems. The crowd, including Executive Mayor Mshudulu, was moved to tears when Adelia read the poem she had dedicated to her sick mother. Mayor Mshudulu said that literature competitions were commendable as they encouraged young people to learn different languages. "I will definitely make time to visit these children at their schools, because this type of performance should always be encouraged," he said.

The Key to a New Home

The first upgraded houses have been completed and the proud owners of the new homes received their keys from MEC Mokonyane during the Thusong Launch festival. 78 Year-old pensioner, Christopher Segole, was the first upgrade beneficiary to receive keys to his new home by the MEC.

"Who else on earth will erect a fence, grade your yard and build you a house for free?" asked a delighted Segole. "People need to understand that the Evaton Renewal Project is here to change people's lives. My new house is an example of this splendid development taking place in our township."

Currently, 100 homes have been approved for upgrading and ten houses have already been completed. Many residents have lived in dilapidated huts or mud houses for years – even decades – and the new homes, all fitted with water, sewerage and power, were awaited with much anticipation.



MEC Mokonyane, Mayor Mshudulu and Themba Qhinebe cut the ribbons at the front door of Mr Segole's new home.

Hamba Kahle Rev McCamel

The community of Evaton and the entire Vaal region mourned the death of a community leader, development activist and famous icon of Evaton, Rev (Dr) Lord Eldorado McCamel.

Rev McCamel passed away on 19 September 2008 after suffering from diabetes for two years. He was known as the father of Evaton and his death is heart-breaking for the residents of Evaton, religious leaders, politicians, government departments and the many structures he was involved in since his youth.

elections and was elected the first Chairman of the Evaton Development Forum (EDF), a structure that represents the community in the Evaton Renewal Project (ERP). Although Rev McCamel resigned from his role in the EDF due to ill-health, he was later appointed by the Gauteng MEC for Housing as a Patron of the Evaton Renewal Project.



Hamba Kahle Rev McCamel. You will not be forgotten. May your soul rest in peace!

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Christmas Message from the MEC for Housing

It is the time of the year when people reflect on the year with mixed emotions. This year was one of the most productive years for the community of Evaton. Some of our efforts have been crowned with success amidst challenges. We are confident that these will sharpen our efforts next year to make Evaton a better place.

2008 has seen us improving our organisational capacity to overcome obstacles preventing us from reaching our goals. One of the highlights for this year has been the gradual but systematic progress in our land release and housing upgrading projects. Other achievements amongst others were the successful launch of Mafatsane Thusong Centre and the engagement with investors through a business dinner.

The year 2008 has left us saddened by the untimely passing away of one of the struggle heroes in the Sedibeng region, Rev Lord McCamel, whose struggle for human rights record has been impeccable.

To the staff, I am aware of your many sacrifices and I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you. Thank you also to the EDF for their continued support.

I would like to wish the community of Evaton a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year and to thank you for your commitment to the ERP.

Mafatsane Thusong Centre Launch

The MEC for Housing officially launched the Thusong Service Centre in Evaton on 4 October 2008. The Evaton Thusong Service Centre will be the 33rd of its kind. When it is completed at the end of 2009, it will house a number of important Government services.

These services will include the Departments of Home Affairs, Health and Labour, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Social Development, GCIS, the Post Office, a library, agricultural extension offices, and municipal services. Community Development Workers, the South African Police Service, NGOs and community-based organisations will also offer their services through the centre.

Executive Mayor Mshudulu said, "Gone are the days when ordinary citizens and our elders had to travel long distances to access government services. People will walk only five minutes from their homes to access services provided by many Government Departments and to pay for municipal services, such

I Love to Truck!



Just like Eddy Grant, MEC Mokonyane loves to truck! The Mafatsane Sports Ground was a scene of great excitement on 6th October, as four brand new waste disposal trucks were driven in. MEC Mokonyane officially handed over the trucks from the Gauteng Department of Housing to Mayor Mshudulu, for the Emfuleni Municipality to provide the Evaton community with adequate waste collection capacity. The trucks were donated by the Province, specifically to empty the thousands of new waste bins that have been distributed in the area.

Tshepo Themba Hall Unveiled

MEC Mokonyane, together with Executive Mayor Mshudulu and Tutu Molefe (Chairperson of the EDF), officially handed over the upgraded Tshepo Themba hall to the Principal of the Tshepo Themba School, Mr Tsepetsi on 6 October. The Tshepo Themba Hall was once a private movie hall many years ago, showing movies on Saturday mornings to Evaton children. Today the hall is an important community facility. The hall has been completely upgraded and looks as if it has been newly built.



Plant a Tree, Save Our Planet



Emfuleni Executive Mayor, Cllr Assistance Mshudulu, planting a tree during the Arbour Week celebration in Evaton. Mayor Mshudulu said that everyone has the right to a clean environment and that schools should encourage learners to plant trees and grow vegetable gardens at home.

On the Road to Progress

A total of 11 200 metres of roads in Evaton have been constructed or resurfaced. New storm water drainage systems have been installed along some of the roads. 30 kilometres of gravel roads have also been graded. Most of the raised islands in Adams Road were removed after complaints were received. New kerbs have been installed on both sides of the road.

The following roads have been identified for the second phase of road construction and rehabilitation. They are West Road, Bodea Road, Sebe Road, Stirling Road, Union Road, Hamilton Road, First Avenue, Boundary Road, Eastern Road, Chamberlain Road, Milner Road, Lind Road and the dual carriage way for Old Golden Highway. All the detailed design work has been completed and submitted to the Department of Housing.

Executive Mayor Mshudulu's New Year's Wishes

The road travelled has been steep, tedious and filled with uncertainty. Yet, through hope and collectivism, we have overcome the hurdles. As we approach the end of the year 2008, we begin to benefit from our resilience, determination and zealotness. We have walked many a mile with the hope that one day as we traverse the desert, we would reach an oasis. And indeed, we finally have.

Through the Urban Renew Project, we are uplifting and changing the face of Evaton through infrastructure development, Thusong Community Centres, building of clinics, and installation of high mast lights. Through these projects, jobs have been created and this has led to a reduction in poverty, unemployment and starvation.

The road ahead has many challenges and opportunities. Through the Integrated Development Programme and the Ward Based Projects, we are committed to accelerating service delivery. Our 100 Days Plan of Action is bearing positives; this is the commitment we made to our people: to create jobs and fight poverty.

In the words of Rowley Israel Arenstein, African lawyer, Marxist and activist: "There are always individuals who can see further ahead, and they can accelerate change when they make decisions based on historical necessity. Someone has to convince people that changes are inevitable, but individuals cannot take the place of historical development".

It is we, and we alone who can determine the course of our future through change and societal transformation. Merry Christmas and a meritorious New Year. You Belong - We Care!

Heavy Rains Hit Evaton

The Evaton Renewal Project (ERP), together with the Emfuleni Local Municipality, came to the rescue of many devastated residents of Evaton after heavy rains swamped their yards and damaged their homes in November 2008. The unexpected cloud bursts stripped many residents of their belongings, damaging homes and furniture. The ERP and the Emfuleni Municipality's disaster management department provided temporary shelters in the form of containers to accommodate victims at the heart of Evaton in the Muthi House Complex. They donated tents and blankets to needy families and erected chemical toilets and water taps near the shelters.



Mayor Mshudulu joins the ERP to Blitz Evaton

The Emfuleni Executive Mayor, Cllr Assistance Mshudulu, joined about eighty Evaton Renewal Project team members at an outreach blitz campaign in Evaton, during September 2008. Members of the public were informed about ERP projects such as the Land Release and Housing Upgrade Programmes and the Evaton Schools Women's Day Poetry Competition. Mayor Mshudulu is here seen handing over prizes to the children who participated in a dance competition at the Evaton Plaza during the community blitz.



Mayor Mshudulu with Evaton's little angels

A New Year's Blessing from the EDF

On behalf of the Evaton Development Forum I would like to extend the warmest greetings to all the people of Evaton. I thank you for your unwavering support and the patience you all have shown towards our endeavours to oversee the development of



Cheques for Land!

Twelve ecstatic residents received cheques from the MEC for Housing for selling their land to the Evaton Renewal Project. More land is needed to build enough houses to meet the housing demand by Evaton residents. There are many large stands of about 3000 square metres owned by Evaton locals. Up to 15 new houses can be built on these stands.

The Executive Mayor and the Chairperson of the EDF handed over cheques to the following people for releasing their land to the ERP: RM & MS Mthibeli, JRA & EYM Ngwenya, BG & GW Maseko, PW Letsatsi, AB Motha, BJ & TJ Mofokeng, R Letsheko, KJ Kubeka, ME Sibeko, NA Mazibuko, TS & M Fenger, BE & MS Mmutle.

Are you interested in releasing your land to the ERP or applying for a housing upgrade? Visit the MIH Project Office at the Wilberforce Community College in Evaton or contact Sibongile Mbatha on 073 000 3480 or visit the Department of Housing ERP offices at the Richard Robert Wright Seminary, at the corner of Bodea & Buffalo Roads or call 083 601 7272

ERP Job Creation Scorecard:

Roads Projects: 60 jobs were created
Grass Cutting Project: 240 jobs were created
Vegetable Gardening: 100 jobs were created
Dustbin distribution project: 40 jobs were created
Security: 24 jobs were created
Communications: 4 jobs were created
SMMES: 9 Local Evaton companies were contracted.

Evaton. It undoubtedly is a mammoth mission, but due to your help and the cooperation of all those who released their land to the Evaton Renewal Project, we now can clearly see the light at the end of the tunnel.

May I also use this opportunity to wish the people of Evaton and all of Gauteng a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! May the year 2009 bring remarkable results and changes to our beautiful township.

I also wish to congratulate our new Executive Mayor of the Emfuleni Local Municipality, Councillor Assistance Mshudulu, on his appointment. We are proud to have an icon from Evaton leading our region.



Ho! Ho! Ho! A message by EDF Deputy Chairperson, Lovemore Moremi, on behalf of the Evaton Development Forum.

