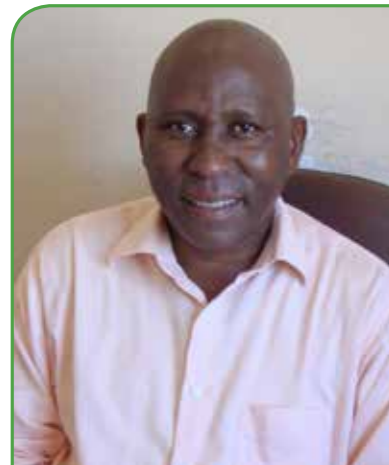


Meet your councillor: Mbongeni Lawrence Bungane, Ward 41

Mbongeni Lawrence Bungane grew up in his parents' home in Ward 27, Soweto-on-Sea. He enjoys going to church; watching sport and spending time with his family.



Ward 41 Councillor,
Mbongeni Lawrence Bungane

After Matric in 1993 I served as the Soweto-on-Sea Branch Secretary of the Unemployed Workers' Union, and my first job was as a casual at an agency of a national vehicle manufacturer.

Tell us about your first job; and how your career in politics began?

I joined the student movement during high school.

Thereafter I worked for Continental Tyres SA for seven years. After a year I was elected as a shop steward, and I held this position until I was elected councillor of Ward 48 in 2000. In 2006 I was re-elected as a councillor, this time for Ward 37. I was named Ward 41 councillor in 2011.

What have been some of the achievements you've had during your term as councillor of Ward 41?

We have had many achievements. We have built houses, installed electricity and tarred roads, streetlights – everything that is a basic need on the ground. Chatty residents will soon have a Multi-Purpose Community Centre and the Education Department has expressed plans to build a school there later this year. We are also hoping to get police stations at Joe Slovo and Chatty.

I hope that Chatty is in the eye of the national government which needs to focus its efforts on the area as it is a destination for relocations. The HDA must link with national government to declare Chatty an Urban Renewal Area like Motherwell

where there are a number of projects on the go such as the Thusong Service Centre.

What are some of the challenges in your ward that need to be addressed?

As much as government is doing well in terms of the construction of houses, I don't believe there is any integrated project or programme that talks about the different amenities under the concept of human settlements. These should reflect plans for housing, community halls and other facilities. Our focus is only on housing. In Chatty and Joe Slovo there are no roads because we operate within a limited budget. I maintain that to resolve the issues these areas must be declared Urban Renewal Areas.

Another big challenge is the high rate of crime. In Chatty people are assaulted because some of the areas for relocation do not have temporary or permanent connections to electricity nor are streetlights installed. There needs to be proper planning so that the different departments talk to one another to coordinate activities which will help reduce the high crime rate.

Unemployment is also a major problem in our ward. The majority of the residents of Chatty and Joe Slovo West are unemployed.

What are your priorities for the next few months?

Through our Ward Based Planning programme we have earmarked key priorities for government to focus on such as areas to which people are relocated. The tarring of roads is another key activity. The lack of proper roads means public transport vehicles - which many residents rely on - cannot enter communities, and that commuters must walk some distance to be able to travel to and from work and school.

I will continue to do my best to engage the various departments to address these issues.

Useful contact numbers

The Housing Development Agency: 041 393 2600
Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality:
Customer Care (All hours): 041 506 5555
Service Delivery Centre (All hours for water, sanitation and all other services): 0800 205 050
Human Settlements Eastern Cape: 043 711 9500
Emergencies: (From cell phone): 112
Childline: 08000 55 555
Eskom Customer Care: 0860 037 566
Public Transport Information: 0800 656 463
Land Invasion:
Macdonald 082 410 5066
Hlela 079 490 0531
Fire: 041 585 2311
Water leaks, Power outages etc. 0800 205 050
General Emergencies: 041 506 2735

Clinics

Chatty Clinic in Dullisear Street: 041 481 2111
Veeplaas Clinic in Kani Street: 041 464 1529
Zwide Clinic in Johnson Street: 041 464 1732
Soweto-on-Sea Clinic in Mbanga Street: 041 464 6021
Booyens Park Clinic in Auburn Road: 041 506 2700
Booyens Park Clinic 2 in Booyens Park Drive: 041 483 1590

Police Stations

Booyens Park Police Station: 041 404 3000
071 475 1938
Kwazakele Police Station: 041 408 7743
Zwide Police Station: 041 405 4712



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Mbongeni Lawrence Bungane, Ward 41

Zanemvula

Bringing the Rain

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issue 34

The Zanemvula housing project launched in 2006. It is an informal settlement upgrading and human settlement project in Nelson Mandela Bay. The project is located in the Chatty, Joe Slovo West, Soweto-on-Sea and Veeplaas areas and involves the relocation of residents from the floodplains of the Chatty River, backyard dwellings and other stressed areas around Nelson Mandela Bay to decent human settlements. The project will deliver 13 500 houses.

A smooth start to the new school year

The 2015 school year is underway. For some children school may be a new experience as they enter Grade R or Grade 1; while others return to the classroom after the December/January holidays.



Joe Slovo Public Primary School Principal, Thembekile Gqunta

Ideally, he says, they would like to have a maximum of 38 to 40 learners per class but this is currently not the case.

"The only "healthy" situation is with our Grade 7s with 33 learners per class," says Gqunta. "Between grades one and six the average head count is 49 in a class and there are multiple classes per grade."

He says mid-year relocations and those that happen during the year-end holidays put pressure on their efforts to keep class numbers low. Smaller classes ensure that every child gets the attention they need. Gqunta adds that learners who live in Joe Slovo are prioritised, but that those from the surrounding areas can also apply.

"Our application process for 2016 runs from the beginning of May to the end of September 2015. I appeal to parents to apply as soon as possible to ensure that they secure a place for their child or children at our school."

Gqunta says there are a few things that are required. "For a Foundation Phase application, forms need to be collected from our school. Once they are completed they must be submitted along with the child's birth certificate, their clinic card and copies of both parents' identity documents.

"For a transfer, all of the above documents are required upon submission. A transfer document and the learner's latest report card must also be submitted."

On 22 January, we visited the Joe Slovo Public Primary School in KwaDwesi. Principal Thembekile Gqunta says the first few days were mostly off to a smooth start with only a few manageable hiccups.

"Learner application and registration processes were completed in 2014 in order for us to have enough time to prepare for the new year. We arranged an orientation day for pupils and parents on 19 January, so that they could familiarise themselves with the school and meet the teachers before the first term began. Many did not attend but arrived on the 21st uncertain of where and with whom they should be."

Gqunta says they were faced with another unfortunate situation. "We were visited by a number of parents whose families were relocated to the surrounding communities during the holidays and whose children needed to be placed in a school closer to their new home. Our school is full to capacity, and we were unable to help them."



Parents who would like more information about the Joe Slovo Public Primary School or the application and registration process can call the school on (041) 485 7005.

A new home in time for the holidays

Christmas came early for Soweto-on-Sea resident Mavis Manoni when she took ownership of her new, fully-furnished house at a special ceremony in December last year.



Mavis, her late husband and their children relocated from Alexandria and moved into the house in 1986. Just more than seven years ago a violent storm badly damaged the house, leaving a gaping hole in the roof and cracked walls. "My husband passed away in 2001. My children are unemployed and we were unable to afford to fix our home."



During a visit to Port Elizabeth last year, Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu came across Manoni's house and instructed the municipality and the HDA to demolish the existing

structure and replace it with a new, structurally sound house. A temporary structure was constructed on her plot of land from which she watched her new house take shape.



Mavis received the keys to her new house from Minister Sisulu and Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Executive Mayor, Ben Fihla, on 22 December 2014.

"I was very excited to hear the Minister's promise. This is the best Christmas present I have had in the more than 70 years I have been living on this earth."

"I am thankful to officials from Human Settlements and the municipality who made sure that the house was delivered before the end of 2014 to give Mama Manoni the best Christmas present ever," says Minister Sisulu.



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Project updates:

Soweto-on-Sea Rectification

- To date, 2034 of 2500 houses have been rectified

Chatty 1380

- 176 units are still illegally occupied and this is affecting completion of the project
- Correcting site numbers and approved beneficiaries in occupation of units on the HSS system is underway

Joe Slovo West 4040 (Services)

- The last Completion Certificates were issued on 03 September 2014

Chatty 1060, Chatty 491, JSW 4000 (Top Structures) and 500 Soweto on Sea/Veeplaas Unbuilt Sites

- All of these projects are in the procurement stages
- The HDA is adjudicating tender proposals to appoint Principal Agents/Structural Engineers who will supply services

that include the design, contract administration and close out processes for the construction of a total of approximately 6051 houses

- Relocations to Joe Slovo West 4000 have resumed after the ward leadership was consulted
- Serviced sites in the Chatty 1060 component project are being illegally occupied

Soweto-on-Sea/Veeplaas 380 Toilet/Bathroom attachments

- The project is in the procurement stage; and the HDA is evaluating bids to appoint contractors
- The HDA intends to directly contract about ten SMME's

Chatty MPCC

- Construction is progressing well
- The contract period is 13 months from 08 September 2014 to 08 October 2015 which includes the annual builders' shutdown

Get to know: Pearl Ezeike



HDA Subsidy Manager, Pearl Ezeike

Nigerian-born Pearl Ezeike joined the HDA team in December 2014 as a Subsidy Manager.

She has a Master's Degree in Law and previously worked for a Port Elizabeth-based firm.

"As Subsidy Manager, my role entails everything to do with subsidies; from beneficiary management (which involves the application process, verification of complete documentation, submissions etc.), to liaison, problem-solving, reporting and analysis, as well as data and people management."

Pearl says one aspect of her job she enjoys most is the problem-solving because she enjoys data management and helping others. She also loves things to be orderly as it shows coherence and makes life easier.

"A typical day in the office involves interacting with beneficiaries who visit our office to apply for subsidies. Many request to see me as they have issues which need to be resolved and personal information that must be updated."

Outside of the office Pearl enjoys church, relaxing, studying and watching movies and soaps.

Signing up for the Military Veterans' Project

Military veterans have the opportunity to apply for subsidies for 491 houses that will be built specifically for them at Chatty Extension 5-15.

An application cannot be made on behalf of a veteran who has passed away by their spouse or any family member. Veterans, themselves, must visit the HDA offices in Greenacres in order for their names to be added to the Department of Military Veteran's database. Once this is done they need to complete the application form and submit the necessary supporting documents.

The following criteria must be met by an applicant:

- The applicant's name must appear on the Military Veteran's database
- Their annual household income must not exceed R125 000.00

- They must not own property
- The household must not have already benefitted from a housing subsidy
- The applicant must produce a certified copy of their identity document
- They require an affidavit if they are unemployed
- The applicant must hold a service letter
- Applicants do not need to be married or have dependants

The project is currently in the planning and final approval stages, and veterans are able to apply for subsidies. To do so, visit the HDA office at 5th Floor, Fairview House, 66 Ring Road, Greenacres.

Air pollution control by-law:



The risk of a small fire spreading and raging out of control is very high during the windy summer months.

Burning may be a quick solution to get rid of waste such as rubbish or grass, but smoke is a pollutant and bad for the environment. Part Five of the Metro's Air Pollution Control By-Law outlines restrictions on open fires.

The by-law says it is an offence for anyone to make an open fire on any piece of land or premises without written permission from the municipality. There are criteria that must be met in order to obtain this go-ahead:

- The Metro must be satisfied that there is no other way to reduce, re-use or recycle the material to minimise the

quantity that will be burnt

- No warning under the National Veld and Forest Fire Act must be issued for the region

- The fire must not pose a nuisance or threat to the safety of people, property or the environment

- Any applicable fee must be paid to the municipality
- The by-law does not apply to braais at private properties; or to small, controlled fires in informal settlements that are used for domestic purposes such as cooking and heating water.