

# Municipality supplying ARVs

**NONDU NGCONGO**

THE Health Unit launched an HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign at the opening of the new Mzamo Clinic at KwaSanti recently.

Unit Head Dr Nomakhosi Gxagxisa said one of the aims of the launch was to spread the news that the Municipality had started to supply anti-retroviral medicines (ARVs) as promised by President Jacob Zuma in December.

HCT, formerly known as VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing) has been re-

branded to emphasise the need for everyone to have themselves tested, not just a few volunteers.

Council Chief Whip Fawzia Peer, standing in for Mayor Obed Mlaba, said the event showed the Municipality's commitment to fighting HIV/Aids, something voters should remember come next year's elections.

## Plead

She said 11 eThekwin clinics were now offering ARVs.

"KwaZulu-Natal has the

highest number of people living with HIV/Aids, so I plead with you to test, even though it is a frightening prospect."

Peer said that even if the results were positive, "You will be one step ahead. You will be able to access appropriate treatment and get advice on healthy eating".

The theme of the day was "Prevention is Life" and to underline this message, Peer, Gxagxisa and other managers had themselves tested in front of the crowd.

Zama Sibisi, of the Office of the Premier encouraged people to support and be part of the One Home, One Garden and circumcision campaigns.

KwaSanti community representative, Vukayibambe Radebe thanked the Municipality for the clinic, saying locals would not have to walk long distances for health care any more.

"We are also grateful for the useful information that you have brought us and for the other services offered," said Radebe.

Ward Councillor Thalente Hlongwa said the clinic was a dream come true but wished it could open 24 hours a day.

The HCT campaign was also taken to the Klaarwater men's hostel with free condoms, testing and counselling offered to residents.

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**WORTHY:** Health Unit Head, Dr Nomakhosi Gxagxisa, Council Chief Whip Fawzia Peer and Sister Zonke Majzo promote HIV testing

Picture: NONDU NGCONGO

## Getting to the art of the matter

**S'CELO KHUZWAYO**

THERE'S still time to catch the popular *Izikhwepha Zethu (Our Strength)* exhibition at the Durban Art Gallery in the City Hall.

The exhibition, which ends on Tuesday (31 August) and is held every Women's Month, celebrates the role of women in shaping society for the better.

It also aims to raise awareness of social issues like

crime, rape, discrimination, disease, poverty, human trafficking and xenophobia.

Works on show include paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles and basketry.

Academic, poet and author, Prof Pitika Ntuli opened the exhibition to thunderous applause with his *Son of a Warrior* poem.

Gallery Acting Director Musa Mncwabe said this year's exhibition was

particularly special because it included the launch of the book, *It's Been a Long Time Coming*, by Nomusa Xaba.

Xaba, who lives in America, said, "The pictures on the walls were designed to create social change, because we need it."

"We have triumphed politically, but we are still not where we should be. We need women to lead from the front."

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# Trailblazer in business, politics

As part of a series on the heroes honoured in eThekwin's new street and building names, **Andile Mnyandu** profiles Bertha Mkhize

**Bertha Mkhize Street**  
Victoria Street

BERTHA Nhlumba Mkhize was born on 6 June 1889 at Embo, near Mkhomazi on the South Coast.

The family moved to Inanda when she was still a girl after her father, Mashobane Mkhize, an ox wagon driver, died. Bertha was one of the

first students to attend the Inanda Seminary and then went to Ohlange High School.

She went on to teach at Inanda Seminary from 1907 to 1911, before training as a tailor and starting a tailoring business in Durban with her brother. This made her one of the first African businesswomen in the province.

She stayed in business until 1965 when the then Durban City Council forced African businesses to move out of the area.

As a young woman Mkhize gained a reputation for speaking her mind and, unlike most Zulu women of the time, her brothers had no power over her. She never married.



**PLOUGHING BACK:** Mayor Obed Mlaba chats to Tony Psaila about his planned around-the-world tractor trip

Picture: S'CELO KHUZWAYO

## Mayor salutes tractor trek

**S'CELO KHUZWAYO**

MAYOR Obed Mlaba has praised a man who has set off on an around-the-world trip on his tractor to raise funds for victims of violence and rape.

Tony "Tractor" Psaila, of Howick, previously travelled across South Africa from Beitbridge to Cape Agulhas on his 1948 Ferguson tractor to raise funds for the Midlands Crisis and Trauma Centre and to promote blood donations.

On that tour he raised R100 000 in just one month.

This time round he's hoping to top that and is off to a good start, raising R3 000 for the World Fund for Victims of Violence and Rape in just a day.

"I started the campaign after seeing women and children being abused. I wanted to help by raising money that would help with counselling and other things they needed," Psaila said.

He recently met Mlaba who praised him for his passion.

"It's a problem to see people still living in hunger and poverty. We still have societies

where women's voices are not heard. Under my office we have a Non-Sexism Committee and in every outreach project that we undertake, we emphasise these things," Mlaba said.

Psaila is originally from Australia and has been in South Africa for nine years. He survived being shot while trying to save a friend from armed robbers in 2002 and said his fund-raising trips were partly to show his appreciation.

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## Women prove good sports

**S'CELO KHUZWAYO**

THE Municipality recently hosted a sports tournament to mark Women's Month, at eMagabheni.

Women teams from across eThekwin, as well as many spectators, gathered at the eMagabheni sportsfield, on the South Coast, for the tourney.

Football fans were treated to a fine display of skills from the women contestants.

In the final, Thandanani, of Ntshanga, came close to clinching it, but were denied victory by a strong uMlazi side, which showed plenty of character.

In rugby, a Durban Invitation team defeated oHlange.

KwaSanti were champions in cricket, with Chatsworth the runners-up.

The Municipality's Deputy Head of Sports and Recreation Development,

Vusi Mazibuko, said that in keeping with Women's Month, matches were arranged in sporting codes that are traditionally male-dominated.

Mazibuko said eMagabheni was chosen as the venue to make it easier for women from rural areas to play sports.

Councillor Mduduzi Bayeni congratulated the winners during the awards ceremony.

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**CHANGE:** Bertha Mkhize street in central Durban

Apart from being a trailblazer for women in business, she was a pioneer in the struggle for woman's rights and instrumental in the launch of the ANC Women's League.

She took part in the 1952 defiance campaign against the pass laws, for which she

spent several months in prison.

In 1954 she attended the founding conference of the Federation of South African Women.

In 1956 she was arrested and charged with treason, although she was discharged the following year.

She also worked for several years for an Indian charity in Phoenix.

Mkhize served at various times as president of the African Women's Association, the African National Congress Women's League and the Durban and District Women's League.

In 1958, at the age of 69, she became a devotee of the Bahai faith, which emphasises the spiritual unity of all human races.

At an age when most people are thinking of retirement, Mkhize devoted the next five years to promoting the faith, helping to establish 28 Bahai communities in KZN. She was also a prolific translator of Bahai literature into isiZulu.

In 1975, at 86, her health began to fail, but she continued to serve on the Spiritual Assembly of Inanda until her death on 3 October 1981, at the age of 92.

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