

Rights and Responsibilities:
Introduction to Vikelani Amalungelo.

On Project Progress:
Updates on infrastructure, maintenance and prospective projects.

Ancillary Issues:
Inoperative public lavatories.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Kanyenathi has gradually developed over the years; from an action research infrastructure audit, to an engagement platform between informal traders and the municipality on infrastructure needs and an infrastructure maintenance monitoring mechanism. Each aspect of this project has become a learning opportunity for both the traders' and the municipality. At the closeout **Kanyenathi** meeting for 2019, a myriad of issues, challenges and expectations were raised by the traders as well as a City representative, which are covered in this newsletter. What is apparent is that informal traders' rights are not fully realized, however it is key to understand that rights go hand and hand with responsibilities. As much as the municipality needs to be responsive to the needs of traders, traders also need to take responsibility in order for their rights to be realized.

Underlying this challenge is the limited knowledge and understanding of their rights as informal traders. In response to this need, **Asiye eTafuleni** launched

the **Vikelani Amalungelo** (isiZulu for "Protect our Rights") project in October 2019 to trader committee leaders' who are representative of over 21,000 informal workers across Durban's inner-city. Through regular engagement with traders, their main challenges were identified, and a rights-based toolkit was developed. This toolkit includes 6 booklets in both isiZulu and English; (1) Right to trade on the streets of Durban, (2) Right to a permit, (3) Rights of traders upon impoundment of goods, (4) Rights of traders when goods have been destroyed by municipal officials, (5) Traders rights on infrastructure development and demolitions, and (6) Right to information on policy adoption, amendments and implications. Over 1,200 informal workers within the eThekwini Municipality have already been resourced with these booklets. **Vikelani Amalungelo** aims to clarify rights versus responsibilities, obligations for both traders and the municipality and the progressive realisation of legislative rights accorded to informal workers.



image 1: Attendees of the Vikelani Amalungelo workshop launch. By Toni Ottanelli-Gale.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE

Bovine Head Cooks Facility - The construction of the new facility is not yet underway. The architectural designs need to be redrafted, following which the traders will need to be consulted. When a design has been finalized, a tender process will occur, following from which the construction will begin. Due to the fact that the Bovine Head Cooks are likely to remain in the temporary facility for some time, the facility is going to be revamped; AeT has offered to do a sketch of all the agreed revamps which will be sent to City Architects to determine costing and action. It has been agreed that rentals will be suspended only for those traders who are up-to-date with their payments. Unfortunately, traders who are in arrears will not be allowed into the new facility and traders who are 7 or more years behind on their payments risk being evicted from the temporary facility.

Mealie Cooks Facility - The eThekweni Municipality's Business Support Unit (BSU) has submitted all the necessary documents required for the removal of the plinths and are awaiting a response. The high season for the Mealie Cooks has begun so the removal will only take place in 2020, after the high season.

Mealie Trolleys: **Asiye eTafuleni** co-designed a trolley to suit the needs of the Mealie Cooks. Two Mealie Cooks have each been provided with a trolley to test their viability and durability on the streets. If the pilot version is successful, AeT will work with the Mealie Cooks to secure funding.



image 2: Mealie trolley prototype being used in Warwick Junction. By Toni Ottanelli-Gale.

Brook Street

- Traders and BSU confirmed that the leaking pipe in the Lime and Impepho market has been fixed.
- Access to electricity is a very pertinent issue for the Brook Street traders; particularly for the food traders and the seamstresses who rely on it for their work. Currently Brook Street A has electricity but Brook Street B doesn't. The municipality have advised that they will install electricity in Brook Street B but will require the Brook Street B traders to pay. This is causing a dispute because the municipality is providing free electricity to Brook Street A traders currently.

Prospective Project - BSU stated that they are likely to develop a market for second-hand clothes sellers. A meeting with these traders was held and it was alleged that traders consented to the relocation to a single gathering space. The proposed site is located adjacent to the Workshop Shopping Centre.

ANCILLARY ISSUES

- A major issue is the inoperative public lavatories at the entrance to Early Morning Market. There is a flow of sewage coming from the building, which impacts on the livelihoods of traders in proximity to these public lavatories.
- The toilets next to the Pinetown rank have also been closed for over two months. BSU has stated that they are not responsible for these toilets.

THERE IS AN EMPHASIS IN KANYENATHI COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON THE NEED FOR CONTINUAL ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN BSU AND THE TRADERS ON ALL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES INCURRED BY THE TRADERS.



image 3: Brook Street Market. By Dennis Gilbert by permission Asiye eTafuleni.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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