



## Election fever in Yeoville Bellevue

Sometime in 2011, local government elections will take place. Political parties are getting ready for the event. BONGANI NYOKA attended the first public election meeting of the African National Congress for the year.

On Thursday 13 January 2011, the ANC Joe Slovo branch (Ward 67) hosted a rare public meeting at the Yeoville Recreation Centre. I say 'rare' because political parties don't usually hold meetings where even non-party members are welcome to participate in the deliberations.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the ANC nominees for councillor for Ward 67 and give the community a chance to assess and comment on the candidates. Only one name will go forward for the election and the response from the community meeting will help the selectors to decide who that should be.

Some people thought they would be able to nominate candidates and were unhappy that they couldn't. Some asked that this situation be reversed to cater for those who could not make it to the meeting (on 8 December 2010) wherein candidates were nominated. The chair skilfully rebutted such proposals, saying these should be sent to ANC regional and provincial structures. There was a huge furore as result of this and I thought the meeting would be called off as the whole house burst into song. But the singing, as I later realised, was to ease the tension and not to disrupt the meeting.

Mr Eddie Majadibodu, in his capacity as the chair, opened the meeting and introduced the Ward Screening Committee (WSC), which comprises seven members. He then introduced the nominees to the general public.

There are three nominees, namely (in alphabetical order): Mr Johannes Dube, Ms Refiloe Mazibuko and Mr Sihlwele Myeki. It is important that readers take note of these names since one of them could soon be the councillor of Ward 67 – of which Yeoville Bellevue is a part.

Members of the WSC were then called upon to pose four standard questions to the nominees. The questions were drafted by the ANC 'higher structures'. These were: (i) What have you done for this community? (ii) What do you see as the main problems we have to address? (iii) How will you strengthen the work of the ward councillor if elected? (iv) What skills would you bring to the council?

Members of the audience were able to ask their own questions after this.

The candidates were able to answer all of them – much to the satisfaction of the audience. I believe the nominees' lucid utterances were quite profound.

Unfortunately, the frontrunner was not announced the same night – ANC 'higher structures' will very soon announce who the final nominee will be. May the best man or woman win.

The down side to the meeting was the small number of foreign nationals who attended the meeting. Thus I should like, in closing, to make a special appeal to foreign nationals living in Yeoville to attend public meetings. Public meetings are one of the few platforms where decisions are taken about the issues that impact on the people of this community. The absence of foreign nationals in public meetings, anywhere in South Africa, affects all us unfavourably. And people, South Africans and others, should not be passive bystanders, as it were, on matters that affect them directly.

**Editor's note:** a similar meeting took place on Monday 17 January in Bez Valley for Ward 66, which now has a voting district in Yeoville Bellevue. Here the candidates were (again in alphabetical order): Mr George Lebone, Mr Keith Peacock and Ms Maria Masalesa.

## Yeoville Boys has new academy

Yeoville Boys has been around for a long time, providing primary school education to thousands of young boys over the years. They are now going a step further, providing additional opportunities for students to get a good educational grounding.

Yeoville Boys' Academy is an institution that was founded in 2010 by Yeoville Boy's Primary School. The academy's main objective is to equip individuals with necessary life skills and provide opportunities for them through sport and education. It was founded upon the realisation that the Yeoville Bellevue community has a lot of talent and potential that lies idle and is not exposed.

Members of the community, including the talented, are exposed to so much anti-social behaviour that there is a real danger that they in turn will have their lives and their futures affected by it. They are exposed to crime, drugs and other problematic activities that could deter them from what they could have grown to be. It is sad to see a talented individual full of potential being engulfed by society and ending up on the streets.



The academy therefore seeks to identify talented individuals with potential, and to develop, nurture them and expose them. Currently the Academy offers two sporting codes, that is Soccer and Cricket, with fitness complementing the two.

However the academy has adopted a holistic approach in that it also offers mathematics, English and life skills. These are all compulsory. Life skills will include workshops on nutrition, abuse, writing a cv, how to conduct oneself in an interview, HIV/Aids, drug abuse and



many other relevant social issues. We have been privileged to have organisations such as Sonke Gender Justice contributing towards the success of the life skills programme.

The academy opens doors for individuals in society by exposing them to tournaments and leagues. Academically, members will partake in competitions like the Olympiad which will help them develop their Mathematics and English skills.

From inception, the Academy has been involved in a number of competitions and also managed to host a successful soccer tournament at Yeoville Boys' Primary school. During the tournament, one of the members of the academy was identified by one of the teams, the eventual winners of the tournament Diaspora Academy, and has signed with them.

The academy welcomes all boys from the young age of 6 – 14 (Gr R-7) only. Application forms and details of how one can become a member of the academy can be obtained from Yeoville Boys' Primary School or by contacting the Academy coordinator, Mr N Mguwe, on 071 7312383.

## Editorial

Sometime before June, South Africa will have its fourth democratic municipal elections. We will be electing councillors to serve us for the next five years. These councillors could make all the difference to our lives. This difference could be very positive or very negative. It is therefore very important for us to take the process seriously - we can only blame ourselves afterwards if we don't.

In Yeoville Bellevue, the ANC has begun their processes. The branches have nominated a list of possible candidates. They have now presented these candidates to the community to test their acceptability and credibility.

Within a short time, we will know who the final candidates for the ANC and other political parties will be. On election day, we will make our choices - and live with those choices for the next five years.

There was one negative aspect to the Ward 67 process. One of the candidates, who happens to be blind, was asked how he would cope with being a councillor. For example, how would he read the many

documents he would receive. He replied that, today, technology makes it very easy for people in his situation to 'read' documents with special programmes which convert text to sound.

It's a pity we still have people in our communities who believe some people are less capable just because they have a disability.

Yeovue News will cover the build-up to the elections and election day. But we will not support a particular political party or candidate, leaving it to voters to make their own informed decisions.

The Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Trust and Yeovue News are updating the database of organisations and institutions in Yeoville Bellevue. This is so that we can publish this useful information in Yeovue News. The database will also be used when the YBCDT undertakes a Social Charter process in Yeoville Bellevue to get support for a development programme in the area. It is important for all organisations and institutions to have a say in this process which is why we are updating our records.

If you are a member of an organisation or institution that you would like to have listed, please contact Jacobeth on 011 4870269 or 079 0524934. You can also email us on [ybcddt@yeoville.org.za](mailto:ybcddt@yeoville.org.za).

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## Liquor License Application

A reminder that Nnamdi Emmanuel Okoro of Harrow Inn Pub & Club has applied for a liquor license for Shop 1, Harrow Centre, 1 Saunders Street, cnr. Old Harrow Road, Yeoville.

The applicant has been operating a liquor outlet for some time, apparently without a license (they were raided by the police in late 2010). There is a bottle store to the right of the place and a tavern or pub to the left.

The application appeared in Gauteng Government Gazette No 1, on 5 January 2011.

If you want to object to the application, please write or deliver your objection to the Gauteng Liquor Board, Johannesburg Regional Office, 3rd Floor, Nedbank Building, 85 Main Street, Marshalltown, Johannesburg. You can call them on 082 3791925.

You should also send or deliver a copy of the objection to the applicant.