



your news your views

# Yeovue news

Free to all

23 June 2011 Volume 4 No 23

## We spoke - and we have been heard!

Readers of Yeovue News will remember that, in Volume 4 No 20, we ran a story called 'Telkom Challenge' (2 June). In this story, we told you about Telkom's plans to auction their land which is between Raleigh St and Hunter St - behind the train coach in Raleigh St. We said that the YBCDT has been in discussion with the City of Johannesburg since January this year on the possibility of creating another market on that land. We called on readers to write to us and tell us if they supported YBCDT's call to Telkom to cancel the auction to give us a chance to find a way to get the land for the City of Johannesburg or for the community. Well, we succeeded. Read on!

Today, 23 June 2011, there is an auction in the Hilton Hotel in Sandton. At this auction, a piece of Yeoville land was going to go 'under the hammer' (be auctioned - sold to the person offering the most for it).

However, this will not happen. The auction has been postponed to allow the community of Yeoville Bellevue and the City of Johannesburg to make an offer for the land so that it can be used as an additional traders' market. Such a market will create more permanent informal trading opportunities and also help us to find a management solution for street trading in Yeoville Bellevue.

Telkom has agreed to our request to postpone the auction to allow more time to come up with a proposal. If the proposal is not accepted by Telkom, then the auction may take place at a later stage.

The piece of land in question is very well placed in the business district of Yeoville and is a perfect place to make an additional market.

While we would have liked to use the building on the land, this is not possible. According to the contractor who is going to demolish the building, the explosion of 2010 damaged the building so much that it is not safe to use it.

We thought we could convert the building into a market downstairs with small production rooms upstairs. But if the building must come down, then we will have to raise funds to build a new one.

We believe the train coach can be bought with the land. If so, we can upgrade it (perhaps Transnet can help) and use it as part of a new market.



The Telkom site in Yeoville. The building behind the train coach is to be demolished.

### Tell us (and the City of Joburg) what you think

Once again, we are appealing to readers to make their voices heard. If you think it is a good idea to have another market on this land, then tell us. Then, when we talk to the City of Johannesburg, they will know that many people in Yeoville Bellevue have spoken and that they would like to see a new market on that land.

Here are some examples of what other people said in emails and SMSs about it: *I really like the idea of a New Market in that old Telkom Space. We are looking at opportunities exactly like that for job creation in our area. Jabulani Thusini* *I support fully the idea of the Telkom site being used as a market. There has been ongoing discussion about the need for further informal trading space to provide an alternative for people blocking the pavements by selling on them. Rev. Tsepo Matubatuba*

*I support the idea of having a market where we currently have the Telkom building. This will empower the poor in our community, reduce crime, provide revenue for further developing the area, reduce dependency on grants, just to mention a few benefits it would bring to people's lives, the area's image & even the country. Chido Nyatsine*

*I support the case for getting this land for a second market and production centre.*

**Edith Nkoe**

Such comments help to show that the community supports this idea.

If you would like to see the land used as an additional market, tell us urgently.

Send an SMS to 082 3737705. Email us at [yeovue.news@yeoville.org.za](mailto:yeovue.news@yeoville.org.za). Write to us at YBCDT, P O Box 93102, Yeoville 2143. Or come to our offices at 18 Rocky Alley, 24 Rocky St, Yeoville Bellevue.

We'll keep you updated.

# World Refugee Day 2011 in Yeoville Bellevue

World Refugee Day 2011 was marked by an event in the Yeoville Recreation Centre. **Mncedisi Ntuli** interviewed organiser Jean Pierre Lukamba to find out what happened and why World Refugee Day is important.

The guest list was an indication of the importance of the issue: present were newly-appointed Mayor of the City of Joburg Councillor Parks Tau, MMC of Health and Human development Clr Nonceba Molwele, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Fatima Chohan, Acting Gauteng Provincial Representative of the Public Protector Rodney Mataboge and Programme Director Dee Mashinini.

The event was organized by Refugee Helpdesk, in partnership with the City of Joburg, Islamic Relief South Africa and Doctors without Borders. It also had the support of the Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Trust.

The occasion provided an opportunity to introduce the new Mayor, who is also now Chair of the Joburg Migrant Advisory Committee (JMAC), to the work done by the Refugee Helpdesk and to highlight the socio-economic and cultural contributions made by refugees in South Africa.

Clr Tau urged South Africans to welcome migrants into our communities. He reminded the gathering that Joburg was built by migrants in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In her speech, the Deputy Minister spoke of the responsibilities of refugees, such as the need for them to process their papers on time and abide by the laws of the land.

The MMC of Health and Human Development emphasised the importance of World Refugee Day in highlighting the needs of refugees, while the representative from the Public Protector's office told the audience that the Public Protector doesn't protect only South African citizens against wrongdoing by public servants, but migrants and refugees as well.

The Refugee Helpdesk Chair Jean-Pierre Lukamba said he was very happy with the success of the event and the new partnerships that have been formed with Islamic Relief South Africa, the City of Joburg, and Doctors without Borders.

He shared stories of refugees who have contributed positively to the community. He gave the example of Phillip Longhe



Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Fatima Chohan in the Yeoville Recreation Centre on World Refugee Day

who came to SA 17 years ago as a refugee and has built a successful business in the country and across Africa. Mr. Longhe was the first black migrant to be a pharmacist at the Johannesburg Hospital. He has since opened his own pharmacy in Yeoville. He also started African Network which dispenses medicines across Africa. Mr Lukamba said Mr. Longhe is a positive example of a socio-economic migrant who has created jobs in the community.

The Refugee Helpdesk will be working with government on the new draft of the regulation on refugees. The Helpdesk will continue to help to build a solid bridge between the SA Government and refugees and also to work with the SADC community to combat the problems faced by refugees regionally and globally.



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### Yeovue News

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