

SAPREF COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM FIVE YEAR COMMEMORATIVE NEWSLETTER



year
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WHAT IS THE CLF?

The SAPREF Community Liaison Forum (CLF) consists of representatives of community organisations, local authority representatives and SAPREF. The CLF was established in 2003 and meets monthly to discuss environmental and social issues of importance to the local community. The objective is to find mutually acceptable solutions to challenges through constructive discussion and debate, chaired by an independent facilitator.

This year the SAPREF CLF celebrates five years of existence and the forum initiated this newsletter to inform neighboring communities about the work that has been done over the years.

MEMBERSHIP

The CLF is represented by bona fide, structured organizations and institutions from SAPREF's neighbouring communities i.e Isipingo, Athlone Park, Amanzimtoti, Umlazi, Lamontville, Merebank/Merewent, Wentworth, Austerville and the Bluff (including Island View). Representatives from the local authority and members of Team SAPREF also attend these meetings.

Among the members who attend regularly are:

- Athlone Park Civic Association
- Durban South Football Association
- Isipingo Island Institute
- Merebank Residents Association
- ISIPHO
- Wentworth Organisation of Women
- Ngizokusiza
- Settlers Primary School
- Austerville Ratepayers and Residents Association
- Footprintz
- South Durban Tourism Trust
- Wentworth AIDS Action Group
- SATAWU
- Merewent Community Policing Forum
- Austerville Clinic
- ABASHANA
- Wentworth Trauma Room
- Ethekwini Water Services
- South Durban Basin ABM

Some of the topics that have been discussed at the CLF meetings include:

- The progress of the South Durban Multi-Point Plan.
- Siva Chetty, the project manager of the Multi-Point Plan has made presentations to the CLF in this regard
- The Health Study
- Dr Rajen Naidoo from the UKZN Mandela School of Medicine presented the findings and conduct of the study to the CLF in 2006.
- The continuing progress of SAPREF's pipeline restoration project. Ebrahim Vawda, project manager, made regular report back to the CLF on how this work was progressing.
- Black Economic Empowerment. Some

of SAPREF's core contractors have made presentations to the CLF.

- Employment opportunities for local communities during periodic major shutdowns.
- SAPREF's operational performance.

At a CLF workshop held on 5 August 2004, the following topics were agreed as priority areas for discussion at future meetings:

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Emissions
Managing complaints
Environmental education
Nature conservation

SOCIAL ISSUES

Poverty
HIV/AIDS
Crime
Alcoholism/drug abuse
Community development
A task team was formed to come up with ideas for specific social initiatives on which the CLF could focus.

CLF TASK TEAMS

The CLF has two task teams mandated to deal with the social and environmental issues:

In the Environmental report-back meetings, data such as MPP results, emissions from the refinery, complaints and other environmental information is tabled.

The social task team was formed to come up with ideas for specific social initiatives on which the CLF could focus. Some of the projects identified have included poverty alleviation by growing food in tunnels and a soccer development programme with local schools.

In October 2006 the CLF held a Strategic Planning Meeting where changes and recommendations were incorporated into the CLF Principles Document and where progress of the Forum was evaluated. Members felt that the Forum created an opportunity for dialogue and discussion.

Ten CLF meetings took place in 2007.

MD message for the CLF 5 year newsletter



Bart Voet
SAPREF MD

"The community forum is a strategic aspect of our engagement with our neighbours. The vigorous debate, time and effort contributed by community members surfaces different points of view, helps us to listen and understand and creates the opportunity to provide information and feedback about our company and operations. This five year milestone is an achievement all Forum members can be proud of"

CLF Projects: Greening Project

At the suggestion of the SAPREF community liaison forum, SAPREF has started a "greening" programme at the refinery.

First to get the treatment was the SAPREF main gate entrance, where, on the central island an S-shape has been created using large pots with a white, blue and green theme. Standard white pebbles from a commercial Bluff supplier were

used to create the white colour, and a host of indigenous plants were used, including cycads with permits, *Dietes bicolor* (the rain plant), indigenous rosemary and asparagus catstail.

On the bank on the right as you enter the refinery site, there is a different approach, with rocks, water feeders for birds, and indigenous trees such as erythrina, trichelia, apodytes and local aloes; shrubs include plumbago and phoenix palm. The 2006 tree of the year, *Burchelia bubalina* (wild pomegranate) was also planted there.



At the suggestion of the SAPREF Community Liaison Forum, SAPREF started a "greening" programme at the refinery. First to get the treatment was the entrance whose overall aesthetic was improved. Pictured is previous project leader, Environmental Manager Catherine Maloa and the team that executed the programme.

Said Richard Winn, an environmental landscaper who designed the landscape framework, "This was a real team effort. The CLF and the local community have been consulted all the way through. Anu Singh, of the Isipingo Island Institute, did the installation with the Coast Care team, and a community plumber did the irrigation installation; the SAPREF nursery provided most of the plants and trees."

Said Catherine Maloa, previous environmental manager who was the project leader, "In time, the beauty of the plants will become apparent and will help to improve and soften the hard industrial aesthetic. People arriving at the refinery will get a pleasant and relaxing welcome, with birds, butterflies and so on, as well as flowering trees and shrubs."

Odours Leaflet

An odours leaflet was initiated by the environmental task team of the SAPREF CLF to help South Durban residents identify odours and their possible causes.

The leaflet also explains the process when odours are reported to the eThekweni Health Department or to SAPREF.

The purpose of the leaflet is to give residents sufficient information to enable them to describe odours more accurately if they have complaints. This leaflet also helps the eThekweni Health Department or other industries to better investigate and locate the sources of the odours.

The leaflet was distributed in letter boxes in 2006. Residents may call Prudence Mbatha on (031) 480 1303 to request a copy.

“SNIFFER” Mobile Air Monitor

A mobile air monitoring vehicle, named ‘Sniffer’ by CLF members, was introduced in late 2005 to detect odours in South Durban. Since then the vehicle has been active at SAPREF undergoing a series of trials.

Explains Bradley Scheepers, HSE technician, “We have been doing studies and comparing the results of the mobile equipment to the Multi-



Photo taken in 2005 when delivery of the vehicle was taken

Point Plan’s fixed air monitoring samplers. We see a close correlation between the two sets of readings.”

The focus is on measuring air quality both on the refinery’s fenceline, and within the refinery at certain points.



Yvonne Bassier
Merewent Community Policing Forum

“SAPREF has an open-door policy with the community. At the CLF meetings we discuss a lot of serious issues and they are always forthcoming with information. SAPREF is also very proactive in keeping the community informed. They always send us notices before any major events are due to take place at the refinery if they can.

The company has also shown huge support for community initiatives, for example the SAPREF CLF initiated the ‘Violence Against Women’ workshop which assisted us in understanding relevant legislation, dealing with family violence and how the NGOs can further enhance the work they are doing in the community.”

Refinery stacks get a makeover

Another initiative that was suggested by CLF members was the maintenance and painting of SAPREF's seven concrete stacks. The first one to be completed is situated at the north zone side of the refinery. It is now a pleasing light grey, the colour having been chosen by CLF members.

Said Reimar Fitschen, civil engineer, "We had to remove the old paint by pressure cleaning, and then filled any imperfections with grout. After a coat of sealer-primer to protect the concrete, two coats of a specially prepared emulsion paint were applied. The work was done by specialist contractors, working on platforms suspended from the top of the 100-metre stacks; obviously, it was a huge job, and cost more than R1 million. However, the integrity of the stack has been ensured and little maintenance should be required for 15 or 20 years.

Soccer Development Programme

The nine schools participating in the SAPREF Community Liaison Forum's Soccer Development Programme took part in the third annual tournament which was held at the SAPREF Social Club on 3 November 2007.

The CLF Soccer Development was a pilot project aimed at unearthing and capitalizing soccer tal-



The first group of coaches who were trained.

ent in the South Durban Basin.

The initiative was born out of SAPREF's ongoing interaction with various members of its surrounding communities through the Forum. In early 2008 the programme will be evaluated and recommendations made for the future.



Betsie Ragaven
Isipingo Island Institute

"I applaud the decision SAPREF took to establish the CLF. Community organizations are now able to interact and engage with the company in a cordial manner. The CLF's success should also be attributed to a very capable facilitator who allows us ample opportunity to voice our opinions in a free and fair manner.

Company information that may be required from SAPREF by the community from time to time, is always readily provided and without secrecy.

SAPREF has also empowered the community groups by providing a number of training courses, one example being the 'Violence Against Women' workshop where NGOs learnt how to deal with victims of abuse."

The suggestion for the soccer project was made at the Community Forum meetings and is a good example of how collaboration can deliver benefits to the community. A small sub group met to develop a proposal and it was decided that participating schools would be chosen from areas in South Durban.

Primary schools in the surrounding communities of Athlone Park, Merebank, Wentworth, Auster-ville, Bluff, Umlazi, and Lamontville were invited to send in an entry motivating selection for the programme and were selected by a panel of CLF members.

Amongst other things the programme provided out of school coaching assistance to learners, provision of kit and accredited training of unemployed youth as coaches.

Other areas covered included the importance of good sportsmanship, self discipline and a healthy lifestyle.

Leadership skills, improved academic performance, school management and improved school and self-image were part of the long-term objectives of the Soccer Development Programme.

delegates including members of the local SAPS, representatives from CLF member groups and from other community and non-governmental organizations.

The workshop was a SAPREF CLF initiative and was sponsored by contracting company F&C Siyaxha. The workshop was presented by Cookie Edwards from the KZN Network on Violence Against Women.



Praveen Maharaj
Durban South Tourism Route

"From the time I joined the CLF it began as a team-building exercise between SAPREF and the community. I was impressed by the transparency the company had when pertinent issues were being discussed. I have also been pleased to see SAPREF's Corporate Social Responsibility programmes focused on the company's neighboring communities in South Durban.

The company has also been a leader when it comes to innovative business measures, for instance the decision to replace all its existing pipelines with new ones which will address challenges of corrosion and leakages and the 'Sniffer' mobile air monitor, a first in South Africa which records all types of emissions and provides analytical data thereof."



The SAPREF CLF has distributed two newsletters to some 30 000 households inform the community of the work that this forum is doing and an odours leaflet to assist the community in identifying odours in South Durban. (This leaflet was also distributed community wide)

'Violence Against Women' Workshop

SAPREF hosted a three-day 'Violence Against Women' workshop in 2006, attended by 50

PROFILE



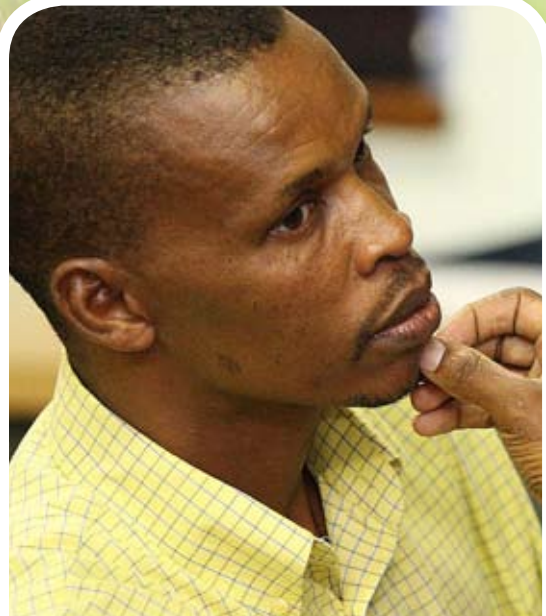
KARTHI GOVENDER **SAPREF CLF FACILITATOR**

Karthi holds a BA LLB from the University of Durban Westville and LLM (cum laude) from Georgetown Law School, Washington DC. Karthi, a former human rights/constitutional lawyer is the founder and CEO of Team Dynamix cc and chairman of EAP Direct (Pty) Ltd, two Human Resources and Organisational Development companies working in South Africa and the Southern African region. Karthi previously served as the Director of Operations at the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and presently is a senior associate with the organisation.

Karthi is a specialist in conflict management, human resources and organisational development and has worked in various parts of the world for international NGO's, intergovernmental agencies (United Nations, IGAD and OAU) and governments. In South Africa he has worked at National, Provincial and Local Government levels. Karthi has worked as facilitator and mediator in a number of disputes ranging from local community conflicts to those involving multi-nationals and environmental interest groups in South Africa and abroad. Karthi presently chairs a National working committee set up by the Ministry of Land Affairs to research and implement a dispute resolution mechanism for land related disputes.

"The SAPREF CLF should be very proud of its accomplishments over the last five years. The discussions while being forth-right have always been conducted in a constructive and amicable manner. Members have conducted themselves with decorum and respect. This type of engagement should

characterize stakeholder management, which unfortunately have not been the norm in the past. Community and business engagement is crucial for social development and should be encouraged at every possible opportunity. The SAPREF CLF epitomizes the true sense of partnership between business and communities. This forum has developed over the years into a place where community leaders hold business leaders to account and this authentic engagement is done in the spirit of respect, dignity and honesty."



Jomo Sibisi **ISIPHO**

"In its five years of existence, I have been with the SAPREF CLF for three years and they have been a really eye-opening three years for me. I have learnt the importance of a company forging a good relationship with its community.

I have also been pleased with SAPREF's approach of allowing the CLF members to identify opportunities for projects in their communities, this is how the South Durban Soccer Development Programme was born and which I subsequently co-ordinated.

In the next five years, I feel that the SAPREF CLF can achieve even bigger and better things."



WANT TO JOIN THE CLF?

Community organizations that may be interested in joining the CLF, or who would like to get more information about the forum, have an open invitation to contact the CLF's independent facilitator, Advocate Karthi Govender on fax: (031) 267 9412 or e-mail: KGovender@jnj.com.

If an organization wishes to join the CLF, a letter of information outlining the organisation's mission and objectives as well as its location, area of work etc, should be sent to the facilitator.