



2010 / 2011 Volume 2, Issue 2

Local Government News

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As South Africa prepares to host the 17th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change serving as the seventh meeting of parties to the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC 17/CMP7) in Durban between 29 November to 9 December 2011. Local Government also has a pivotal role to play, hence the Umkhanyakude Pavillion.



UMkhanyakude Pavilion structure sponsored by Siemens

Special Announcement!!!

COP17/CMP7
UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

TOP CLIMATE CHANGE AVE THE FUTURE

Article by Surprise Zwane

This will be set at the north end of the Durban International Convention Centre, at the backdrop of the Conference, wherein discussion on local government action for climate change will emanate.

Whilst being a very practical structure it also has a very workable space in terms of its size, that is easy to break out into areas. Spacious enough to accommodate all the key elements required to sit within the Local Government Pavilion. The material of the walls of the dome structure is such that it can be used to project appropri-

ate imagery and messaging both inside and out.

A high technology conference space whilst still maintaining a very modern African theme, which is sectioned off from the rest of the pavilion space. Set up based on a traditional African Lekgotla-style meeting room, based on the African tradition of coming together in 'Indaba', where the elders would gather in a circular fashion underneath a large tree for discussion.



The Baobab tree "Tree of Hope".

The Baobab tree is the enduring symbol of life today and for the future. A symbol that represents protection, food, community, participation and harmony.

As a responsible global citizen and in synch with our obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) South Africa is

committed to contribute its fair share to the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

For South Africa, taking meaningful climate action is about seizing the opportunity – to build international competitiveness, new economic infrastructure, sectors and activity; create prosperity and jobs; transform our economy and society; reduce poverty; improve health and quality of life for all. This is our unwavering commitment to the international community and to the next generation of South Africans.



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Deputy Minister of Higher Education Ms Hlengiwe Mkhize launched the Climate Change baton.







Hosting Mayor of Ekurhuleni-Metro, Mr Mondli Gungubele.

The South African Mayors Conference on Climate Change, which took place from the 9th – 11th of October at Emperors Palace in Ekurhuleni in preparation for the upcoming 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to be held in Durban from the 28th November until the 09th December, has adopted a declaration stating the local government's commitment towards climate change.

The conference hosted delegates from 278 municipalities across the country from the 9th – 11th of October 2011 at Emperors Palace in Ekurhuleni municipality. Local Mayors and municipal officials shared knowledge on climate change and capacity building as preparations for COP17 unravel.

This is part of the Local Government Programme for COP17-CMP7, a programme between the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (EMM), and South African Cities Network (SACN), which was officially launched at the conference.

The Minister of International Relations & Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Ms Hlengiwe Mkhize, Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordham constituted a ministerial panel towards COP17 that shared information on their roles on climate change leading to COP17 respectively as well as between national, provincial and local government.

Mayors and representatives of municipalities representing rural and urban communities living in small, medium and large cities reaffirmed their commitment to lead their municipalities and communities in taking appropriate measures in response to climate change. Practical short term actions that will exhibit this commitment include reducing use of paper in municipalities and insisting that documents are always printed on both sides as well as discouraging the use of bottled water during meetings and other activities. These will be supported by a post COP 17 commitment to facilitate investment in waste-to-energy plants in municipalities as well as intensifying efforts towards energy efficiency and understanding the risk and vulnerabilities of municipalities and communities in the context of climate change.



Councillor James Nxumalo (2) of SALGA,
Deputy Minister of Higher Education Ms Hlengiwe Mkhize (1), Minister of International
Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana
Mashabane and Minister of Finance, Mr
Pravin Gordham (4) during the South African
mayors conference on Climate Change in
preparation for COP17/CMP7, Emperors Palace, Kempton Park.

Article by Surprise Zwane

National Environmental Authorization System (NEAS)

National Environmental Authorization System (NEAS)

The National Environmental Authorisation System (NEAS) is a web-based electronic database that has been developed to assist the South African government authorities with the capturing, tracking and reporting of environmental impact assessment (EIA) applications. It is an integrated environmental management tool aimed at providing an environmental reporting mechanism on a national and provincial level through the use of centralised information.

Contact Simon Moganetsi or Sujata Dasarath on 012-310 3062/3162 to obtain more information.





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SANPARKS ADOPT-A-LEARNER MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME



SANPARKS ADOPT-A-LEARNER MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME.

MIER Municipality (in the Kalahari)

Apart from providing support to Local Governments on Environmental Planning and Management, DEA Officials within Districts are sometimes approached by other Sectors and Stakeholders to engage in environmental management and capacity building processes, not necessarily directed at only Local Government Support. One such an engagement involves the SANParks Adopt-a-learner Mentorship Programme at the Rietfontein Combined School, near Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, which was launched in March 2011. (Previously reported on in the SRP Newsletter; July 2011).

DEA's INVOLVEMENT: The DEA official responsible for Local Government Support to Siyanda District Municipality, which includes Rietfontein (Mier Municipality) and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, was asked to assist with the initial planning, launching, as well as roll-out of the programme over the next two years. Initially it meant serving on the Steering Committee consisting of SANParks, Department of Education, Mier Municipality and the Provincial Department of Environment and Nature Conservation. However, it soon became clear that her role would require much more than just providing advice, but it would mean actively facilitating capacity building programmes and events together with the other Steering Committee members, in order to empower the beneficiaries.



THE PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES INCLUDE: Providing learners the opportunities to expand their social learning environment; Fostering partnerships with existing and new stakeholders to contribute towards the sustainability of the learners' development in total; To provide quality after school experience in a sustainable way to Grade 10 learners guiding them through various skill development aspects; To rekindle the level of consciousness towards nature, culture, the community and in general among these youngsters.

Two successful interventions already took place in the first half of the year in the form of Personal Development Workshops with the learners. In September an Awareness Campaign covering all the schools in the Mier Municipality is planned during which learners will be sensitised on National Arbour and National Clean-up Week and will be able to participate in activities around these celebrations.

Article by Madelaine Parsons

IN SUPPORT-UTHUKELA MAYORAL CUP







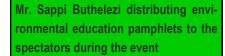
In the middle: Mr. Sappi Buthelezi ASD-LGS based at Uthukela District Municipality promoting "green" Mayoral Cup

UThukela District Municipality hosted UThukela Mayoral Cup which was held on 07th August 2011 (Sunday), Settlers Park Stadium in Ladysmith.

The event was aimed at showcasing footballing talent; only 06 teams that were featured during the day of an event namely; Maritzburg United, Amazulu Fc, Jomo Cosmos, UThukela Squad, UKhozi FM, & UThukela Mayors Squad. ASD-LGS from DEA felt that this would be an opportunity to raise Environmental Public Awareness hence DEA has a mandate to capacitate communities on environmental management. This was accomplished as we had approximately 5000 spectators in the Stadium. Mr. Sappi Buthelezi ASD-LGS ensured that the Mayoral becomes a green event. He developed a waste management plan specifically for this event. Waste management plan had a key role to play in achieving sustainable waste management. The main purpose of this plan was to outline the key issues regarding the management of waste before, during and after UThukela Mayoral Cup. There were many activities happened during the day of an event namely: Distribution of environmental management pamphlets, green passports, fliers to raise environmental awareness to communities.

Article by Sappi Buthelezi

ASD-LGS Mr. Sappi Buthelezi requested recycling bins from the Why Waste Company to ensure that communities become aware of Reuse, Reduce & Recover for waste minimization purposes. The recycling bins which were labeled as Cans, Bottles & Plastics were placed in strategic positions of the stadium to ensure that waste is minimized especially in hotspot areas.



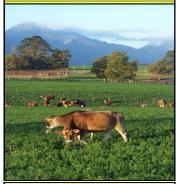


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SOUTH AFRICAN RISK AND VULNERABILITY Atlas

Caption 1: Risk and Vulnerability Atlas Cover, published in August 2010.

Happing the way to a resilient fine



Caption 2: One of the case studies in the atlas illustrating its use.



Caption 3: Two Beta Testing Workshops held in Pretoria and Cape Town

Risk and Vulnerability Atlas proves its value in climate change mitigation and adaptation

When there is scientific evidence that the ice cap of Marion Island has already melted by 60% in the past 50 years, and the surrounding oceans have got warmer by some 1,5 degrees Celsius over the past 40 years, it is clear that climate change poses a multi-faceted global challenge that requires the combined efforts of all relevant sectors and roleplayers.

The lead up COP 17 (the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) being held in Durban later this year, has been marked by a growing interest in climate change mitigation and adaptation in South Africa.

This is reflected in the increased interest shown in the South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas (www.rvatlas.org), which is proving its worth as an invaluable source of global change information and a powerful tool in planning for a more resilient future. The South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas is an

initiative of the Department of Science and Technology's Global Change Grand Challenge under its ten-year Innovation Plan for South Africa. Implemented by the CSIR, the Atlas draws on a strong foundation of expert scientific and spatial data to provide an electronic database and repository of local risk and vulnerability information. In addition, it contains practical case studies aimed at bridging the gap between science and policy by improving access to the best locally relevant global change information.

Since the initial hardcopy version of the Atlas was published in August 2010, it has been reprinted twice to meet the huge demand for the information it contains. Work is currently underway to produce a second edition of the Atlas which will include a greater diversity of risk and vulnerability information, new themes and case studies as well as updated infor-

mation on climate changerelated stressors.

Information that can be found on the electronic spatial database includes projections of climate change at local scales, by different models, for the 21st century; assessments of the risk of coastal flooding due to sea level rise; probabilities of drought and water shortages; risks of fire; population densities; economic activity and poverty levels.

Data on this portal are continuously generated and updated and are already being used by decision-makers, planners, environmental managers, researchers and students to aid their understanding of environmental risks and related changes in the natural, social and economic spheres.

Article by Miriam Murambadoro





Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholders interested in learning more about the Atlas are encouraged to visit www.rvatlas.org, or to contact Miriam Murambadoro mmurambadoro@csir.co.za or Kristy Faccer kfaccer@csir.co.za



Caption 4: Three business orientation sessions in partnership with the National Business Initiative (NBI) have led to several opportunities for collaboration with South African business.

Stakeholder engagement events are being planned to facilitate discussion around the Atlas, including its uses and application to the individual needs, challenges and roles of these groups.

In the coming months, the CSIR will be collaborating with the Department of Environmental Affairs and other partners to provide targeted support and outreach in the application of the Atlas information to key groups such as municipalities and business.

Information about the Atlas and hard copies of the book will be available at COP17 in Durban.

Article by Miriam Murambadoro

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Rural Development and Land Refore REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The new National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) have been given the mandate by the President of South Africa to develop a Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) throughout the country.

To achieve this mandate the DRDLR embarked on developing a fresh approach to rural development. The CRDP is focused on enabling rural people to take control of their destiny, with the support from government, and thereby dealing effectively with rural poverty through the optimal use and management of natural resources.

This will be achieved through a co-ordinated and integrated broad based agrarian transformation as well as the strategic investment in economic and social infrastructure that will benefit the entire rural communities. The programme will be successful when it becomes apparent that "sustainable and vibrant rural communities" are succeeding throughout South Africa

The history of planning in South Africa was designed to serve different political idea- segregation, differentiation and privileged. Planning laws were fragmented across boundaries and even after 1994 the pattern of segregation was inherited which manifested in unequal, incoherent and inefficient settlement

RUNNING ON PARALLEL PROCESS

patterns. The Development Facilitation Act (Act No. 67 of 1995) was promulgated as a tool to transform the past legacy.

The Development Facilitation Act was "to introduce extraordinary measures to facilitate and speed up the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes and projects in relation to land": however chapters V and VI were deemed as unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court. The court granted government a period of 24 months to come up with a new Act as a solution to the legislative defect.

The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill is aimed at immediately responding to the judgement of the Constitutional Court Act to replace the Development Facilitation Act by June 2012, and also "to provide for the inclusive, developmental, equitable and efficient spatial planning and land use management systems across the country."

The Draft Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill was published in the Provincial Government Gazette on the 6th May 2011 inviting interested person or body to provide comments on the Bill. "The Bill will replace the Development Facilitation

Act, No 67 of 1995, Removal of * Promote-Co-operative gov-Restrictions Act, No 84 of 1967, the Physical Planning Act, No 88 of 1967 and other laws. The Bill will impact on all national, provincial and pre-1994 pieces of legislation on the land use management and land development."

Before the publication of the Draft Bill in the Provincial Government Gazette there was a series of consultation workshops held with national and provincial departments, municipalities,parastatal organisations and professional associations and councils.

The objectives of the Bill are

- Provide for a uniform, effective, efficient and integrated regulatory framework for spatial planning, land use and land use management in a manner that promotes the principles of co-operative government and public interest:
- Provide for and determine principles, development compulsory norms and standards for land use management:
- Maintain essential standards for land use management, spatial development and land use;

- socio-economic ernance: benefits; and sustainable and efficient use of land;
- Establish planning tribunals;
- Redress the imbalances of the past and ensure that there is equity in land use and land use management.

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KShongwe@ruraldevelopment.gov

Redress the imbalances of the past and ensure that there is equity in land use and land use

Article by Enoch Mhlanga.



What is GIS DAY?

Geographic Information System

GIS Day is a global event for thousands of users of GIS technology with the goal of educating millions about how geography makes a difference in our daily lives and to demonstrate GIS technology at schools and organizations around the world.

This year marks the 11th global GIS Day.

Last year more than 800 registered events were held on six continents and in 83 countries.

Article by Lisa Pretorius

covering some of the following topics: * Renewable Energy Appli-

- cations
- * Digital Elevation Model
- * Using imagery in your GIS
- * GIS and Climate Change
- * Rhino Poaching in SA a **GIS** Perspective



2011 GIS Day Theme "GIS ON TRACK"

For more information please contact the GIS Unit E-mail: GISday@environment.gov.za

Sector Education in Action



The environmental sector is a rapidly emerging and is a **new area** for skills development in South Africa (post-apartheid). It a cross cutting issue that impact on all the different sector education and training authorities (SETAs). The Department of Environmental Affairs has in **the past ten years (10)** not participated in the skills planning process in South Africa to inform the Sector Skills Plans and the Workplace Skills Plans hence was poorly represented in the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) I or II.

Prior to 2009 there was no comprehensive skills planning for the environmental sector in South Africa, and in 2009/10 DEA undertook to establish what the major skills development needs were in the environmental sector in South Africa. The Environment Sector Skills Development Plan (ESSP, DEA, 2010) emphasizes the need to address skills development issues within a *systems framework*.

It recommends the development of *Human Capital Development Strategies* to implement the Environmental Sector Skills Plan at various levels of the sector, and for various purposes. It specifically recommends the development of a Human Capital Development Strategy (HCDS) for the Environmental Sector that will strengthen implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Environmental Sector (DEA 2010) and that will address *sector wide* skills development issues. The ESSP provides the background research and information necessary for development of such a Human Capital Development Strategy.

Environmental legislation

Most environmental legislation is new (1998 -2008) and still emerging (e.g. National Sustainable Development Framework (2007); NEM: Waste Management Act (2008) and needs concentrated efforts to develop skills — in government and in all sectors where compliance is required. The public needs skills to participate in sustainable development (Section 24 of Constitution).

Environment is a **new area** for skills development in South Africa (post-apartheid). DEA has in the past ten years (10) not participated in the skills planning process in South Africa to inform the Sector Skills Plans and the Workplace Skills Plans hence was poorly represented. Environmental sector skills development planning has not kept 'apace' with the rapid changes in the environmental sector, as reflected in transformative legislation and new environmental challenges. As a result the WSPs in municipalities is characterised by a skills development regime that is reactive to legislation. There is an urgent need to work towards a more pro-active, integrated approach to skills development in the sector, to address skills development lag, and/or duplication of effort and systemic inefficiencies.

Consultation with Skills Development Facilitators (SDFs) from municipalities.

Given that the environmental sector skills development planning has not kept 'apace' with the rapid changes in the environmental sector, as reflected in transformative legislation and new environmental challenges. As a result most of the Workplace Skills Plans (WSPs) in municipalities are characterized by a skills development regime that is transversal in nature and reactive to environmental legislation. There is an urgent need to work towards a more pro-active, integrated approach to environmental skills development in the municipality sector, to address skills development lag, and/or duplication of effort and systemic inefficiencies.

Further, local government also has legal mandates for service delivery areas, particularly water quality management, waste management, biodiversity management. In addition, local government has responsibilities for air quality management and environmental health, and for management of parks and gardens or public open spaces. The above legal mandates for service delivery introduces new challenges for skills development for municipalities.

Evidence shows that workplace skills planning in local municipality is compliance driven, rather than mandate driven, and that while large amounts of money is being spent on training, the training is not clearly aligned with the core mandate of the municipalities, KPAs or performance-based outcomes.

Training paid for by workplace skills planning linked budgets tends to be more generic, and most such training is leveled at Levels 1-4 on the NQF, while many employees attending such training are employed with Levels 6-8 NQF qualifications. While it is conceivable that some courses need to be pitched at introductory level for particularly purposes of learning a new skill, there is also a need for a greater alignment with level of employment and level of skills training being offered, as well as skills training and its relevance to KPAs and performance outcomes. Skills development in workplaces seems to be provider driven (i.e. available accredited courses) and a lack of specific mandatebased information on skills needed.

Engagement with municipalities through the Local Government SETA SDF Forums.

The Environmental Sector Skills Plan (ESSP) has showed that while numerous green economy strategies and strategies for green jobs are emerging, very little attention is given to the pro-active planning for skills development needed to make these strategies work. Furthermore, the ESSP indicates the need for giving urgent attention to the development of skills development planning infrastructure and competence for delivery of training and training capacity for green jobs and a green economy. To this extent, **DEA through the Sector Education Training** and Development directorate has initiated a series of engagement with the Local Government SETA to workshop the municipalities to integrate the environmental focus into their Workplace Skills Plans (WSP).

During the month of August and September 2011, the Department of Environmental Affairs i.e the Sector Education Training and Development directorate conducted consultative workshops with the Municipalities to present the ESSP and how the municipalities can align their organisational WSP's. Eighty (80) municipalities were introduced to the ESSP during the provincial SDF Forum meetings and DEA hopes to reach all municipalities by end March 2012 with the view to assisting the SDF to develop a WSP that is responsive to the environmental imperative.

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Editorial Comment

Greetings

The second issue of 2011/2012 financial year Local Government Newsletter series has proven to be a daunting one. It is our hope that the turn of events in the national and global politics inspires all of us and it is anticipated that the environmental issues will remain a top priority on the national and global agenda.

Local Government newsletter remains a platform of sharing information relating to local government support initiatives, the best environmental practices, selected municipal projects and selected environmental events or celebration that are hosted by all levels of government. The editorial team would like to encourage all of you to send articles for the coming series under the theme and spirit of "Together We can Do More."



For further information contact

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Future Events

Local Government Convention

Theme: Adapting to a changing climate.

Date: 2 - 4 December 2011

Venue: Ethekwini City Hall, Durban, South Africa. "Towards COP 17/ CMP 7 and beyond"

Registration forms are available for download at www.iclei.org/africa



Green Gospel at Dundee July horse rídíng, umzínyathí Dístríct Municípalíty



Caption 1: Enviro Team made up of KZNDEARD and DEA, district officials.

July riding Flare". spite the reluctance of the Local Organizing Committee to

include the concept "green" in the branding of this event, the team from the Department of Environmental Affairs both National and Provincial managed to have the event setting green standards by implementing green practices.

The Green Gospel journey started with the Enviro Team attending the first and then all the subsequent planning meetings for the event which were initially at a three weeks interval until the last few weeks when they were taking place almost every week as demanded by the event of that magnitude. "The main aim in participating in this event is to raise environmental awareness and bring people from all walks of life aboard regarding environmental challenges that the world is facing currently."

The theme of The Enviro Team developed a Waste Manage-Dundee ment Plan for the event in the presence of the horse Endumeni Local Municipality's Technical Services 2011 on the 07th of July 2011. Among other activities was "Heritage that we embarked on during the race day's pro-De- ceedings were to:

- Control and manage waste (waste separation at source and litter picking)
- Collect data to calculate carbon foot print for the event (cars only).
- Collect the quantities of water and electricity consumed at the event
- Exhibit with posters, leaflet, banners and some recycled items (We ensured that the Green Information reached as many people as possi-
- * Promote environmental awareness (We educated as many people as we possibly could)

Executing such a mandate as stated above required that we train volunteers to assist the Enviro Team during the race. The volunteers constituted of the Love-Life Youth, Environmental Health Practitioners, Ashalia Recycling Agent's Staff and the deployed Endumeni Local Municipality's Staff. Training took place in the afternoon of the 22nd of July 2011 at the race course. The site was visited by people in excess of three thousand (3000).

Our efforts paid dividends as the litter on site in the next day was remarkably low as compared to the previous years. This suggested that the Green Gospel that we were preaching from the Enviro Tent did not fall in deaf ears. A total of recyclables were 1375kg of glass waste, 46kg of plastic bottles, 235kg of cans, 22kg of plastics and 140kg of Cardboard and paper. Other types of waste were collected into 298 refuse bags which estimated to about 2384kg., the water consumed for drinking and spraying of the dusty surfaces was 10 kilolitres and electricity consumed was 276 kW. Another interesting feature in the Green Gospel is the calculation of Carbon Footprint that this event may have left. The targeted to pilot with 250 cars. Some trained officers collected data from motorists to determine the distance that each car travelled to and from the event's venue. The data collected from 286 cars was then fed to an internet based calculator which revealed that a total of 28 trees have to be planted to counter the Carbon emission of 2908kg.



Article by Bongekile Mthimkhulu

CONTACT DEFAILS LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OFFICIALS (SRPP)

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| | West Rand District Mu- nicipality | Granny Dlamini | West Rand District Municipality Private Bag x 033, Randfontein, 1760 | Tel: 011 411 5141 Fax: 011 412 3663 Cell: 082 567 2296 Email: dgdlamini@environment.gov.za or gdlamini@wrdm.gov.za |
| Limpopo | Sekhukhune | Manngo Ntsieni Stanley | No 6 Voorttrekker Street Sekhukhune District Municipality Community Services Department Groblersdal 0470 | Tel: 013 262 7385 Cell: 073 395 4946 Email : <u>nmanngo@environment.gov.za</u> |
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| | Capricon District Mu- nicipality | Thabo Hlongwane | Nedbank Building, 3 rd floor office no 301 60 Landrose mare Streets, Polokwane, 7000 | Tel: 015 291 5403 Fax: 015 291 3307/0866623202 073 215 3346 Email: thlongwane@environment.gov.za |
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| Moreholo & Setai Street, Phuthadit- Phofung) Moreholo & Setai Street, Phuthadit- jhaba Cell: 082 359 8844/ 07880 | 003388 |
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