DA eThekwini leadership in turmoil

Plan to elect new leaders challenged

KAREN SINGH


The infectious diseases epidemiologist is the director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme Research in Southern Africa (CAPRISA) and a co-chair of the Covid-19 modelling and analysis committee, which submitted 119 admissions on the pandemic to the UK’s Independent Scientific Advisory Panel.

Abdool Karim launched book on Covid-19 pandemic

Abdool Karim said the book offered an in four segments that included the first 100 days of the pandemic, the journey involved in getting to a point where scientific advice could be given, the challenges of the advice-policy interface and the last the impact of the pandemic.

The panel of speakers at the launch included Professor Peter Stanil, special adviser on Covid-19 to the president of the European Commission, Jeremy Farrar, chief scientist of the WHO and ambassador John Nkengasong, who is the US global AIDS co-ordinator and special representative for health diplomacy.

But it was important to tell the story of the pandemic’s impact on our minds and continue to tell our story, he added.

Professor Stanil said the book was important to write because it had become an important element of the broader narrative. ‘It is important to write a book because history will be written, I look forward to this book not being a problem in a pandemic, which included knowledge of the pathogens, population, policies, politics and the day-to-day elements of the pandemic.’

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The China Emporium building in the Durban central business district, which was occupied by squatters last year, is now sold.

This was confirmed by Thembeka Minnety, property manager who enquired from Trinity Property on the future of the condemned building.

The demolition of the structure, which has become an eyesore over the past months, is part of the city’s efforts to deal with short-term and target problem buildings that are occupied by squatters and used for a range of illegal activities, including drug trafficking and prostitution.

The Mercury

Thobani Khumalo, provincial leader of the DA in eThekwini, and Francois Billy, provincial chairperson, over incumbent Dean Macpherson, were fundamentally impacting people’s rights, people’s movement and livelihoods.

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The City has also had engagements with the municipality, with the co-operation of the City and the final go-ahead to commence the demolition process. She pointed out that the City has identified eight buildings for demolition, including the building of interest.

In the 2022/23 financial year the City managed to get 13 buildings renovated, with five demolished and 25 properties the owner committed to getting the structures in good condition.

According to the City, there are 88 problem buildings on the database, “but the number is not static as buildings are requisitioned and subsequently removed on success has been bought down.”

Khumalo said difficulty in according funds for rehabilitation purposes by property owners, and multiple remuneration of some of the buildings as among the challenges hampering the municipality’s programmes, which is aimed at giving the city a much-needed facelift and ensuring that it appeals to both tourists and potential investors.

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Abdool Karim stepped down as adviser on Covid-19 to the president of the WHO.

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Halting of caucus elections called by provincial leader Thabani Khumalo said the failure to hold the elections, which was currently no leadership in place. As such to get it under their control, the failings are (now ActionSA leader Zwakele) Nienaber can still achieve.