

Grocott's Mail Tuesday, 16 April 2013

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# 'Muni must act'

STEVEN LANG

Rhodes University nearly had to be shut down a few weeks ago because the municipality couldn't supply water to the institution. Putting it bluntly, Vice-chancellor Dr Saleem Badat said the university was "in the kak" and it had only been able to stay open because it was close to the end of the term.

Speaking at a media briefing about the university's plans for the next few years, Badat made it clear that the development of the university was dependent on receiving the required infrastructural support from Makana municipality. He said Rhodes is responsible for about 60% of the economy of Makana and therefore it is in the interest of the local community to ensure that the university's needs are taken care of.

In the coming years Rhodes would like to increase its annual intake of students by 1 200, Badat announced. This means that jobs can be created during the construction phase of new residences and after that in the servicing of those buildings, but if the municipality is unable to supply basic services, these plans could be undermined.

The university is currently going through an important process of devising an Institutional Development Plan, the vice-chancellor said, to give direction to the university in the coming years. He said there are three themes running through the plan.

The first can be compared to a compass for the university that will serve as a guide to where it wants to be in 10 to 20 years. This theme asks questions about what Rhodes will look like in 10 years, what sort of academic programmes will it have; what kind of values will it follow and what type of philosophy will drive its development.

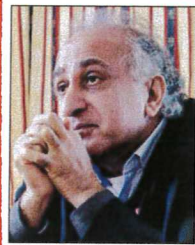
The evolution of this theme requires inputs from the broadest range of stakeholders including alumni, academic staff and current students.

The second theme focuses on the academic plan and asks questions about the number of graduates versus postgraduate students; research trajectories and language matters.

The third theme centres around infrastructure issues and concerns itself with logistical questions such as where will the additional 1 200 students stay; how many more lecture theatres are required and whether the municipality can upgrade its service delivery to meet the water, power and sewage demands of a growing university.

While Badat proudly discussed expansion plans for the medium- and long-term future of the university, he expressed concern about the difficulties encountered in terms of transformation.

He remarked that the university has been successful in changing a predominantly white student body into one that more closely represents the population of the country,



**BIG PLANS...** Dr Saleem Badat Photo: Bridgette Hall

"Rhodes would like to increase its annual intake of students by 1 200"

but has not met with the same success in transforming the academic staff.

He noted that as student numbers grew, the proportion of previously disadvantaged students increased, but pointed out that the overall number of white students had not decreased.

Badat was not able to point to a specific reason to account for the difficulty in attracting black professionals to Rhodes, but noted that some academics had said they were uncomfortable trying to fit into overwhelmingly white social circles.

The vice-chancellor stated that the transformation imperative was not only about racial balance, but also about class composition of the university. He said historically the university had been primarily for the wealthier classes, but he is determined to change that.



**BAIL PROTEST...** Extension 9 residents marched to the Grahamstown Magistrate's Court yesterday morning to protest against the bail application of three men accused of rape. The men were arrested in connection with the brutal gang rape of a 17-year-old girl from Extension 9. Photo: Anele Mjekula

## Mayor's car: tender reopens

AVUYILE MNGKITA-DIKO

VOLKSWAGEN and Hyundai didn't make the cut for the new mayoral vehicle, according to the municipality, so the original tender has been cancelled.

Makana spokesperson Mncedisi Boma said the two dealerships responding to their call for tenders hadn't meet all their specifications.

The vehicle VW offered them was too heavy on fuel, didn't come with leather seats and the colour wasn't what they had specified, he said.

"Hyundai's problem was the engine capacity was 1 999cc and we had agreed

on 2 500. That is why we had to cancel the tender and re-advertise," Boma explained.

Now they will cast their nets further and open the tender to dealerships outside Grahamstown, Boma said, even though they wanted to buy local.

"We will open the tender to other dealers, but we encourage the local dealerships to re-apply because it is also open to them and we know that there are dealerships locally that can meet all the specifications," he said.

Last year the municipality said they were hoping to get a better quote from lo-

cal dealerships because that would mean the car could be serviced locally.

Adverts for the tender appeared in newspapers in the province in October, specifically outlining an executive SUV model, preferably in black, with 2.5 litre engine capacity, an anti-theft alarm system, smash-and-grab tinting, satellite navigation and leather interiors.

The advert also said they wanted trade-in value on the Mayor's current BMW X5.

The current mayoral vehicle had to go because it was costing too much in fuel and maintenance, Boma said.

Students	Projected target 2013	Proposed target 2019	Average annual increase
First-time entering undergraduates	1 500	1 672	1.3%
<b>Total undergraduate</b>	<b>5 329</b>	<b>5 926</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Postgraduate to Masters level	987	1 158	4.0%
Masters	912	1 058	4.2%
Doctors	374	561	4.9%
<b>Total postgraduate</b>	<b>2 273</b>	<b>2 777</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
Occasional students	43	45	0.0%
<b>Total Enrolment</b>	<b>7 645</b>	<b>8 748</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

**STEADY GROWTH...** This table shows how student numbers are expected to grow.

## Stock up on domestic fuel

PEOPLE using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in their homes are warned to stock up in time for winter, as a two-month shutdown is soon scheduled for a large national refinery.

On Friday the Department of Energy in partnership with the LPG industry released a statement encouraging all

LPG users to take the opportunity to refill or stock up on supplies.

Users were also reminded to avoid shortages caused by spikes in demand during the winter months.

Although LPG is currently readily available across the country, one of the biggest refineries in Africa, South Afri-

can Petroleum Refineries owned by BP and Shell, plans to shut down from 26 April to 1 July. However, technical problems at other refineries might result in shutdowns and production losses.

Users are urged to refill or stock up to cover their medium-term needs.

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The Lowlander - 10 Worcester Street, Grahamstown  
Doors 7pm Show 8pm  
Tickets: R50

Bookings: 046 622 3564 or email [highlander@sacschool.com](mailto:highlander@sacschool.com)  
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Facebook event: <http://www.facebook.com/events/350211398423833>

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10 Oribi, 10 Bushbuck,  
100 Heartwater Springbuck, 5 Vaalribbok  
10 Mt Reedbuck, 45 Red Lechwe,  
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