

# Hawaii battens down hatches

**VOLCANO:** EARTHQUAKES AND AFTERSHOCKS COULD CONTINUE FOR DAYS, EVEN WEEKS

» Lava, toxic gas forces evacuation of more than 1 700.

**Pahoa**

**H**undreds of anxious residents on the Big Island of Hawaii hunkered down on Saturday for what could be weeks or months of upheaval as the dangers from an erupting Kilauea volcano continued to grow.

Lava spurting from volcanic vents, toxic gas filled the air and strong earthquakes — including a magnitude 6.9 tremor on Friday — rocked an already jittery population. The trifecta of natural threats forced the evacuation of more than 1 700 people and prompted the closure of parks, college campuses and a section of the main road through the area.

Five structures have burned and thousands of customers briefly lost power from one of the larger quakes.

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory warned distressed residents at a community meeting on



**APOCALYPSE.** An aerial image shows a column of robust, reddish-brown ash plume after the magnitude 6.9 earthquake. Inset: Resident Sam Knox, 65, shows lava burning across the road. Pictures: AP



and crater walls. Narrow fissures appeared in the ground at a building overlooking the crater at Kilauea's summit.

Leilani Estates, where lava was pushing through cracks in the earth, has about 1 700 residents and 770 homes. A nearby neighbourhood, Lanipuna Gardens, which has a few dozen people, was also evacuated.

Kilauea has been continuously erupting since 1983 and is one of five volcanoes on the Big Island. Activity picked up earlier this week.

The crater floor began to collapse Monday last week, triggering earthquakes and pushing the lava into new underground chambers. The collapse caused magma to push 16km downslope toward the southeast coastline. — AP

Friday that eruptions could last longer than the ones from earlier in the week, and that earthquakes and aftershocks could continue for days, even weeks.

Gary McMillan said his home is about 3 000 feet (914m) from one of the fissures that is spewing lava and gas into Leilani Estates. He says that as of now his home is

still intact.

He understands why authorities are keeping residents out.

"I was a critical care nurse for 37 years, so I understand the health implications and the dangers involved," McMillan said.

The lava lake at Kilauea's summit crater dropped significantly, suggesting the magma was mov-

ing eastward toward Puna, a rural district of forests, papaya farms and previous lava fields.

Officials warned of the dangers of spattering hot rock and high levels of sulphuric gas.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park evacuated all visitors and non-emergency staff. The quakes triggered rockslides on park trails

## Clinic slams Oz suicide ruling

A member of a Swiss clinic set to help Australia's oldest scientist end his life has said it is an "atrocious" that Australia had not allowed the 104-year-old to die at home.

David Goodall, who caused a stir two years ago when his university tried unsuccessfully to have him declared unfit to be on campus, does not have a terminal illness but says his quality of life has deteriorated and that he wants to die.

"But because he is not terminally ill... he has to travel to Switzerland," said Ruedi Habegger, a co-founder of Eternal Spirit, one of a range of foundations in Switzerland that help people end their lives.

Goodall is due to end his life at Eternal Spirit's clinic near Basel on May 10.

Assisted suicide is illegal in most countries around the world and was banned in Australia until the state of Victoria became the first to legalise the practice last year.

But that legislation, which takes effect from June 2019, only applies to terminally ill patients of sound mind and a life expectancy of less than six months.

"I don't want to go to Switzerland," Goodall said before he set off on his final voyage last Wednesday, adding that he had to "to get the opportunity of suicide which the Australian system does not permit".

"I feel very resentful," said the honorary research associate at Perth's Edith Cowan University.

He flew first to France, to visit his son, and travels on to Switzerland this week.

Exit, with its about 140 000 members, functions fully on annual membership fees and can cover all expenses for those requesting an AVD.

But Eternal Spirit is much smaller and requires patients to pay for any necessary medical examinations and procedures prior to the act, which can be pricey in Switzerland.

Habegger said Goodall was travelling with a friend, who would be with him until the end.



**BIG DECISION.** David Goodall with Carol O'Neill of Exit International. Picture: AFP

In assisted dying, the person must be physically capable of carrying out the final deed themselves.

Most Swiss foundations ask patients to drink sodium pentobarbital, an effective sedative that in strong enough doses causes the heart muscle to stop beating.

Since the substance is alkaline and burns a bit when swallowed, Eternal Spirit has instead opted for intravenous infusions.

A professional prepares the needle, but it is up to the patient to open the valve that allows the short-acting barbiturate to mix with a saline solution and begin flowing into their vein.

A video is shot of the patient stating their name, date of birth and that they understand what they are about to do.

The camera keeps rolling as they open the valve and the footage is used as evidence that they willingly took their own life.

"Then we shut off the camera, because the rest is intimate, private," Habegger said.

It usually takes 20 to 30 seconds for the person to fall asleep. "Then they go deeper and deeper, until the heart muscle relaxes," he said.

"It is not a heart attack. It is not a painful process. The heart just stops beating. Within a minute-and-a-half, it is usually over, Habegger said.

"It is short and peaceful." — AFP



**MASILONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

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**Invitation to Serve On the Audit Committee of Masilonyana Local Municipality.**

Masilonyana Local Municipality Calls for Applications by Interested Persons with the requisite Skills to serve as members of the Audit Committee.

**BACKGROUND:** Council is required to constitute an Audit Committee in order to comply with the provisions of Section 166 of the Municipal Finance Management Act No.56 of 2003. The existence of an independent Audit Committee will enhance Corporate Governance and the transparency of Council administration and shall give the Local Community/Ratepayers confidence in the Council's stewardship over the utilisation of public funds.

**ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:** A relevant degree or equivalent qualification in Accounting, Risk Management, Performance Management, Auditing or Certified Internal Audit (CIA) and experienced Internal Auditors functioning at Senior Level will have preference. Proven expertise and experience in the fields of financial management; risk management; performance management and internal auditing is a pre requisite.

**PREFERRED REQUIREMENTS:** Over and above, essential requirements; Preference will be given to incumbents with specialist knowledge of Accounting, including GRAP standards, Performance Management; and practical application of National Treasury Performance Management Framework; as is applicable to Municipalities. Members affiliated to the professional bodies such as SAIPA/SAICA/SAIGA/ACCA are encouraged to apply.

**KEY FUNCTIONS:** Persons interested in this function and who are eminently qualified therefore will be expected to advise the Council, Municipal Manager and Senior Management on the following matters, amongst others;

- Internal Audit; • Internal Financial controls; • Accounting Policies; • Risk Management • Adequacy, reliability and accuracy of financial reporting and information; • Performance Evaluation; • Corporate Governance; • Compliance with relevant Legislation; • Any other issues referred to by the Municipality; • Examine and Review the Annual Financial Statements before final approval for auditing by Auditor General; • Respond to the Council on any issues raised by the Auditor General South Africa; • Reporting to the Council on a quarterly basis

**TERMS OF OFFICE AND REMUNERATION**

The term of office of appointed candidates will be 3 years, after which it will be reviewed by Council. Persons appointed to the Audit Committee will be remunerated in accordance of Treasury's payment rates applicable to municipalities.

**CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATIONS:** Applications must be accompanied by a detailed CV, inclusive of certified copies of qualifications certificates and identity document, and must be e-mailed to ptsekedi@masilonyana.co.za OR by post: P.O Box 8, Theunissen, 9410.

Enquiries: Mr Daniel Motaung (Head Of Internal Audit)  
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**P.S TSEKEDI  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER**