

MOP-UP OPERATIONS CONTINUE AFTER HEAVY RAINFALL

THE South African Weather Service has advised that the weather alert has been reduced to level 2 today, 17 October. Although moderate showers can be expected, the weather is clearing.

Head of Disaster Management and Emergency Control Vincent Ngubane said there had been no reports of fatalities, injuries or any missing individuals following the heavy rainfall yesterday.

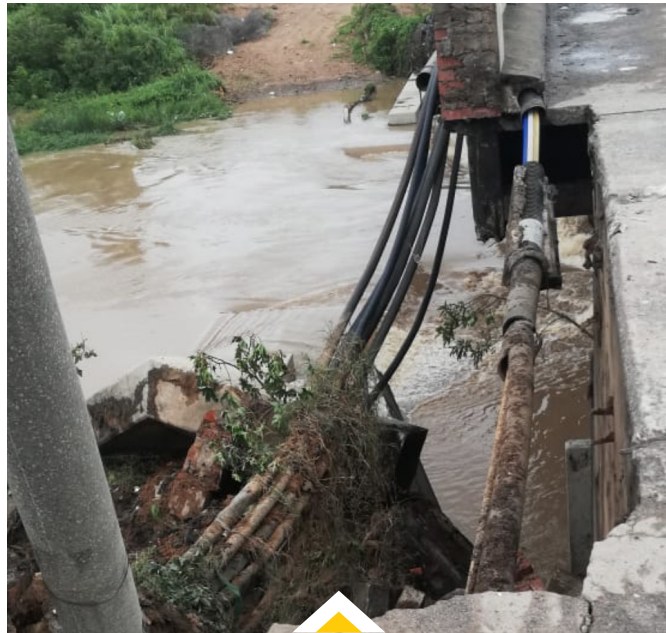
However, there have been a few reports of flooded houses in KwaMashu and a collapsed house in Inanda.

Clean up operations are underway where roads are being cleared of mud, debris and fallen trees.

EThekweni recorded approximately 44.6mm of rain which affected mostly the southern region, causing significant waterlogging on several roads.

All the City's emergency teams were on high alert since the start of the downpour and will continue to be on the ground until the weather clears completely.

There are disaster manage-



Part of the Hulets Bridge collapsed on Old South Coast Road. Heavy rainfall was experienced in the City however, the weather is clearing. Disaster management teams remain on high alert.

ment teams that have been activated to monitor high-risk areas. They will continue maintaining vigilance and monitoring high-

risk areas, particularly stream crossings prone to flooding. EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda, expressed his

satisfaction with the City's proactive measures and reassured residents of the City's commitment to their safety and well-being. This comes as the Executive Committee was briefed on 16 October during a virtual meeting about plans in place to respond to any disasters.

During the meeting, Ngubane explained that the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was swiftly activated in coordination with City officials and provincial representatives to ensure the preparedness of primary and support agencies.

The activation of the EOC serves several critical functions as it safeguards effective control at the emergency scene, facilitates the coordination of resources and services, and guarantees that the community remains well-informed about casualty management procedures. The eThekweni Disaster Management Centre provides updates to the Provincial Disaster Management Centre every three hours, ensuring a continuous flow of information.

DURBAN ICC VOTED AFRICA'S LEADING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

THE votes have been counted and it is official -the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) has once again been crowned as "Africa's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre" at the esteemed 2023 World Travel Awards. This marks the 18th occasion that the Durban ICC has been

bestowed with this title. The Durban ICC's dedication to providing world-class services and facilities for meetings and conferences has made it a natural recipient of this prestigious title. Durban ICC Chief Executive Officer Lindiwe Rakharebe expressed her gratitude, saying the management of the ICC is

humbled by the accolade. "This achievement reflects the tireless dedication of our team and our unwavering commitment to providing a world-class platform for meetings and events." It was a proud night for Durban who took top honours in two destination categories, namely "Africa's Leading

Meetings and Conference Destination" and "Africa's Leading Festival and Event Destination." The Durban ICC has consistently been a pioneer in the international meetings and events industry in South Africa. It has served as a catalyst for economic growth and a hub for global knowledge exchange.

ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY LEADING IN DEVELOPMENT GRANT SPENDING



EThekwini Speaker Councillor Thabani Nyawose during a SALGA NEC engagement with KZN municipalities.

ETHEKWINI Municipality continues to be the leading metro countrywide in terms of spending of the Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG).

This was shared by eThekwini Speaker Councillor Thabani Nyawose during a three-day South African Local Government Association (SALGA) National Executive Committee engagement session.

The session involved several municipalities and was held in Durban recently.

Councillor Nyawose said the City has spent 100 percent of the USDG in the past five years

and has received an unqualified audit opinion during the same period.

He said despite the tough economic climate occasioned by rising inflation, interest rates, food, and fuel prices, as well as a weakening exchange rate, the overall financial position of eThekwini Municipality remains stable and sound.

“We are pleased with the cooperation we are receiving from various stakeholders including business, civil society, and organised labour. Currently, we are engaging with ratepayers throughout the City to form a strong partnership to fast track service delivery,” he said.

“Disasters we have witnessed in the City recently have reminded us of the urgency with which we need to act so that we are able to prevent the loss of lives and livelihoods,” the Speaker said.

He said the City’s rehabilitation and recovery process has been hailed internationally, given the extent of damage to City infrastructure during the floods last year.

City Manager Musa Mbhele highlighted eThekwini Municipality’s capacity to hold high-end events which positively impacts tourism.

The City Manager appealed for support with debt recovery from government departments. “We are appealing to government departments to pay us what they owe so we can discharge our responsibilities. We are also requesting for the implementation of accredited capacity building programmes for councillors as part of an exit strategy,” he said.

SALGA President Bheke Stofile said the session’s aim was to allow them to engage directly with municipalities on various challenges as well as to reflect on the best practices in the province that can be replicated across other municipalities to improve the sector.

PLAN TO TACKLE SCAVENGING AT BUFFELSDRAAI LANDFILL SITE

THE City is taking proactive measures to address the pressing issue of scavenging that has plagued the Buffelsdraai Landfill Site, with promising developments and significant budget allocations.

The scourge of scavenging, which led to the closure of the landfill site in July 2023, has prompted the Municipality to seek budgetary provisions urgently. The site was severely affected by vandalism and scavenging, rendering it inoperative for waste disposal.

In August 2023, a partial reopening of the site was strategically orchestrated. To tackle the issue of waste picker integration and address the challenges posed by scavenging, the Municipality is actively exploring collaborations with the private sector.

In response to these challenges, eThekwini Municipality, through a resolution approved at Council on 10 October, has allocated substantial budget to address the scavenging crisis.

The resolution outlines the provision of all necessary emergency work packages to restore the Buffelsdraai Landfill Site to operational status. This includes safety measures during operations.

A capital budget of R80.4 million and an operating budget of R24.5 million are approved for this purpose.

CITY SUSPENDS OFFICIALS FOR FRAUD LINKED TO HOUSING PROJECTS

ETHEKWINI Municipality has suspended officials linked to purportedly irregular and fraudulent transactions totalling R17 million. The transactions relate to three housing projects in uMlazi T-Section, eMaphephetheni and in KwaMakhutha.

The officials were suspended after the Municipality, through its internal control processes, last month uncovered an elaborate fraudulent scheme in which R17 million was paid to two companies. Six more

officials have been issued with letters of intent to suspend.

Details of how the payments were processed are part of an ongoing investigation by the City Integrity and Investigations Unit.

The three housing projects linked to the fraudulent scheme are ordinary projects of the Municipality’s Human Settlements Unit.

The housing projects are continuing however, there will be a budget shortfall in the current financial year which means

their estimated completion will now be during the 2024/25 financial year. EThekwini remains committed to rooting out fraud and corruption. This is done through continuous tightening of internal control processes and through taking harsh action against officials implicated in wrongdoing.



Chairperson: Executive & Finance & Committee
Cllr Mxolisi Kaunda



Chairperson: Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee
Cllr Themba Mvubu



DURBAN TO HOST BRICS GAMES



DURBAN continues to be a destination of choice to host sporting events. This comes as the City was announced as the host of the BRICS Games 2023 taking place from 18 to 21 October. This prestigious multi-sporting event is spearheaded

by BRICS members countries including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The tournament is expected to attract hundreds of sports enthusiasts and athletes from the BRICS nations. Hundreds of athletes playing

for teams in U/19 to U/21 across the BRICS countries will battle it out in five sporting codes.

These include Swimming, Badminton, Wheel-Chair Tennis, Tennis, and Beach Volleyball.

Matches will take place at various venues around the City. Build up activities are also planned to create hype and interest in the tournament.

The tournament aims to enhance solidarity, social cohesion, friendship and to promote peace and development among participating countries.

Chairperson of the Community Services Committee Councillor Zama Sokhabase said the City is

proud to host yet another sporting event of this magnitude.

“We are excited that eThekweni remains a favoured city to host mega sporting events. These are vital as they play an integral part in the City’s economy,” she said.

Councillor Sokhabase said sporting events create direct and indirect economic benefits for the City.

“They not only boost local tourism and the economy, but these events create hope of better economic prospects for communities,” she said.



Chairperson:
Community Services Committee
Cllr Zamazulu Sokhabase

PROGRESS MADE AT WESTOWN DEVELOPMENT

THE City leadership was excited to see the progress made at the Westown Development in Shongweni and congratulated Fundamentum on reaching their milestones one year on.

Construction of Westown Square, which is the retail and lifestyle centre of the development, is forging ahead. A 1 260-apartment lifestyle estate residential development for the

area was also announced by JSE listed Balwin Properties on 11 October.

Chair of the Economic Development Committee Thembo Ntuli said: “As a City, we cannot wait to see this R50 billion investment, which is being implemented in nine phases, being finalised. Apart from contributing over R500 million to the annual revenue of the

Municipality, this development will create 8 500 temporary jobs at construction and 6 000 permanent jobs.”

The 100-hectare Westown site is a hive of activity, with approximately 500 people currently on site. Piling, earthworks, retaining structures and columns of Westown Square are virtually all complete and the walls of the 50 000m² retail experience, the

first project within Westown, are going up.

“KZN is the place to be as far as investment goes,” said Carlos Correia, CEO of Fundamentum Property Group.



Chairperson:
Economic Development and Planning Committee
Cllr Thembo Ntuli

APPLICATIONS TO HOST EVENTS DURING FESTIVE SEASON NOW OPEN

THE Municipality invites all event organisers, companies, and individuals who wish to host events in the City during the festive season to submit applications.

Applicants have until Friday, 10 November at 4pm to apply for the permission to host events.

Applications are for events to be hosted in the City during the festive season period from 3 December 2023 to 31 January 2024.

The public is advised that no stage performances will be permitted along coastal areas on

these dates 16, 25, 26 and 31 December 2023, as well as 1 to 3 January 2024.

Application forms to stage an event/programme must be obtained from and returned to the Events Management Office, The Platform, Lion Match Complex, Entrance No 1, 892 uMgeni Road, Durban, 4001 or emailed to Archel.Somaroo@durban.gov.za.

Event organisers are advised that applying does not guarantee that permission will be granted. The applicant will be notified whether the application has been successful or not.

The Municipality reserves the right to cancel an event should it deem the event to be non-compliant.

Chairperson of the Community Services Committee Councillor Zama Sokhabase said the health and safety of the public remains a priority for the City leadership. “Inviting organisers to apply for permission to host events will enable the City to monitor and ensure the process is compliant with eThekweni Municipality’s event management system to prevent unnecessary incidents,” she said.

She added that planning in

advance will also assist the City to take reasonable measures to prevent injury or ill health by having procedures in place if emergencies arise.

“With health and safety plans in place, we want to ensure that residents and visitors enjoy their festive season in a safe and well-coordinated manner,” Councillor Sokhabase added.

The submission of applications is important as should anything happen during the event, safety plans are in place. For more information contact 031 311 4720.



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY

ETHEKWINI City Manager Musa Mbhele has signed a second addendum to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Transnet. This move solidifies the continued partnership between the two entities and places a strong emphasis on identifying and disclosing potential development projects that serve the mutual interests of both entities. These projects must contribute to the advancement of the City and the thriving Port of Durban.

The signing took place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 12 October.

The MOU led to the development of a Memorandum of Agreement that is expected to enhance the Durban Container Terminals' second road access and traffic modelling



EThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele and Transnet National Ports Authority's Managing Executive for the Eastern Region Ports, Moshe Motlohi signed a second addendum to the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Transnet. This move solidifies the continued partnership between the two entities.

strategy for the Port of Durban.

The second addendum also seeks to establish institutional structures

to help the two parties to achieve objectives in terms of section 41 of the Constitution, Section 13 of the National Ports Act, and

Section 3 of the Municipal Systems Act.

Transnet National Ports Authority's Managing Executive for the Eastern Region Ports Moshe Motlohi expressed the significance of maintaining a transparent method of sharing information and consultation with the City.

"This transparency is pivotal to ensuring the timely implementation of numerous joint projects," he said.

Mbhele said this collaborative relationship between the Port and the Municipality is more than a partnership; it is a vital lifeline for the well-being of Durban and its residents. "This partnership not only drives infrastructure development but also fosters job creation, encourages environmental sustainability, and promotes innovation."

PRIORITISING PUBLIC DURING CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK



Customer Service Week was commemorated recently. The City hosted various initiatives to commemorate the week, including staff dressing in different themes.

THE City's successful Customer Service Week initiatives clearly demonstrated the embodiment of Ubuntu, teamwork, and unwavering dedication by staff throughout the week. Customer Service Week served as an occasion to underscore

the importance of exceptional customer service, reinforcing its role in upholding impeccable customer service etiquette. It was also a time to express appreciation and recognition to staff for their remarkable commitment to the City's valued

customers.

Head of the Sizakala Customer Centres Mavuso Tshabalala expressed gratitude for frontline workers' and their unwavering dedication. "We deeply appreciate each team member and recognise their indispensable role in the City's business success. Customer Service Week is not about us, but about our customers. We express our gratitude for staff across all units and reaffirm our commitment to serving in the best possible manner," said Tshabalala.

As part of the week's celebrations, customers received tokens of appreciation

from various City entities, including libraries and revenue centres. The priorities of the week were clear: providing timely responses to service requests and enquiries, managing requests efficiently, and serving customers with unwavering dedication. "Our teams took this commitment to the next level by dressing in different themes, all while going the extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction," Tshabalala said.



Chairperson:
Governance & Human Capital Committee
Clr Nkosenhle Madlala

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DESIGN & LAYOUT: Siyabonga Mkhize

If you would like to submit feedback or contribute to eThekweni Weekly Bulletin

Email: news.desk@durban.gov.za