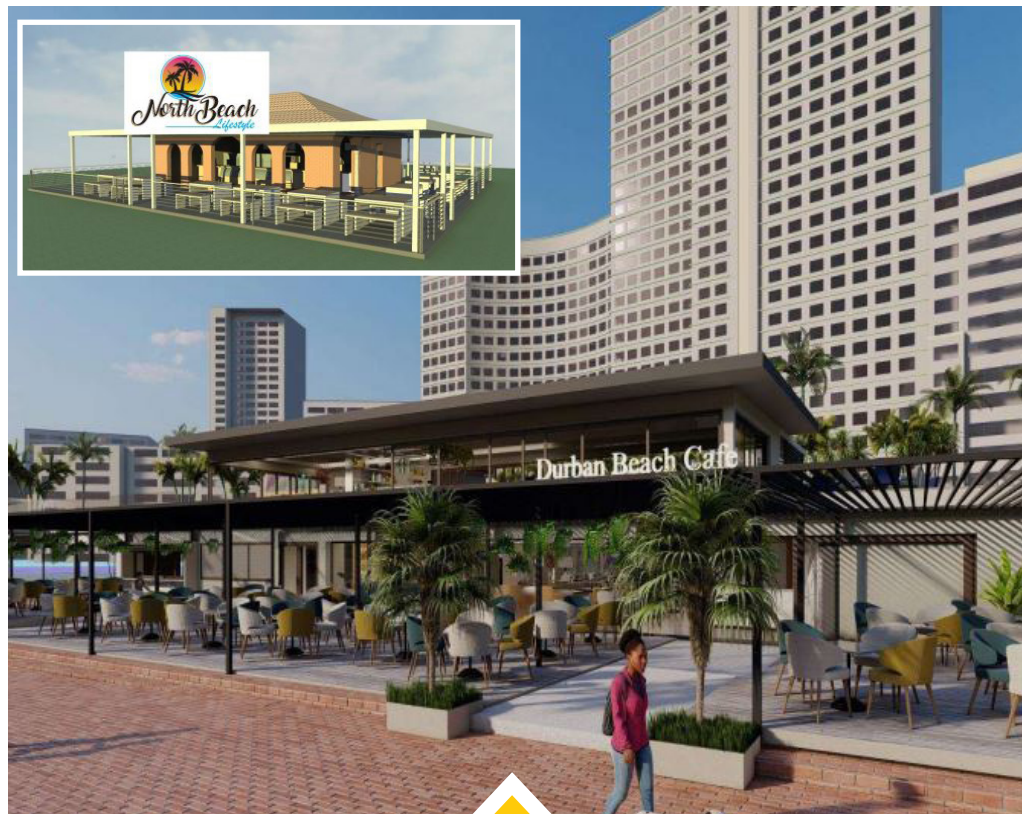


MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNED FOR DURBAN BEACHFRONT

DURBAN'S beachfront will soon boast up-market developments which form an integral part of the City's Proactive Land Release Strategy. The strategy, adopted in September 2021, enables the Municipality to be proactive in alienating surplus land, assisting the City to achieve its developmental objectives, stimulate economic activity and black economic empowerment, as well as promote economic transformation in the property sector. Head of the City's Real Estate unit Thapelo Mmusinyane explained: "In the period between May 2021 and November 2022, a total of 25 properties were advertised and 10 awards were made to new lessees. All 10 awards were made to companies that are 100% owned by historically disadvantaged individuals. On the beachfront in particular, properties that have been affected are Circus Circus, Bike and Bean, and Minitown." These developments do not just affect tourism, but they accelerate economic empowerment through job creation. Bike and Bean will transform into North Beach Lifestyle, a restaurant that has seen a R300 000 investment injection, with a cool yet classy vibe and



An artist impression of the Durban Beach Café (formerly Circus Circus), above, and North Beach Lifestyle (formerly Bike and Bean). These developments form part of the City's objective to transform the beachfront.

will create approximately 15 jobs after the revamp is completed. The popular Circus Circus is currently being renovated to a stunning fusion of Africanism and Art Deco and will be christened Durban Beach Café. The vision of this establishment is to create an iconic tourism destination restaurant while capturing the spirit of the City. The anticipated opening

for this venue is October 2023 and will create 45 jobs after construction, including absorbing the current staff currently employed by Circus Circus. The much-loved Minitown, which has been one of the City's most popular places to visit, will undergo a total transformation, with a mixed-use hotel development which will encompass arts and crafts, kiosks for small

businesses, retail spaces, a salon and spa, dining, and others. This will create approximately 150 jobs with a R170 million investment by the lessee on a 30-year lease. EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda welcomed the development.



**Chairperson:
Executive Committee
& Finance Committee
Cllr Mxolisi Kaunda**

PROVINCIAL ANNUAL EXTENSION SUMMIT TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURAL PLANS

THE City was the proud host of the Provincial Annual Extension Summit which took place on 28 July at the Olive Convention Centre themed 'Towards building an inclusive, adaptive attitude for sustainable food systems: The role of agricultural extension'. The summit provided an opportunity for agriculture sector stakeholders to present their goals and objectives on how they manage the development of crop, livestock, and aquaculture production programmes in order to transform the agricultural sector and improve food security. Some of the topics covered included the impact of the multi-crop season to address food insecurity in rural communities, improving rural economies through beef production, technology transfer, and the role of extension services, to name a few.



Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli and MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Super Zuma.

MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Super Zuma said: "This summit is a significant event as it provides a platform to discuss our accomplishments as a province as well as future plans. We must continue to advocate for service delivery and be agents of change within the sector. Agriculture is a sector that contributes in fighting poverty and tackling unemployment." Chairperson of the Economic Development and

Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said the summit took place at a time when the world faces extreme weather conditions that threaten to negatively impact the agricultural sector. He said eThekweni Municipality has chosen agriculture and agro-processing as important priority areas for job creation. "This sector provides opportunity for small businesses. We must accelerate the entry of small farmers into the agricultural sector."

Sand pumping currently underway on beachfront

ETHEKWINI Municipality would like to clarify that the City is currently busy with a sand-pumping operation on the beachfront, close to the harbour mouth. This is done on an annual basis to ensure that the City beaches remain in pristine condition for all beach goers. Social media reports recently that sewerage is being pumped onto the beach is malicious, false and ignorant. The sand-pumping scheme creates a recreational beach and pumps approximately 280 000 cubic metres of sand onto beaches every year.

This also acts as a buffer between the beach and infrastructure. The harbour breakwaters prevent the natural migration of sand from south to north on the beachfront necessitating the sand pumping operation. If the City did not pump sand, the beaches would erode away with the action of the waves. Continuous beach monitoring programmes are in place to provide sediment data on the beaches. Read an article about this on the SAAMBR website for clarity. <https://www.saambr.org.za/what-is-that-foamy-stuff-on-the-beach/>



eThekweni Municipality is pumping sand onto the beach as part of the process to keep its beaches pristine. Contrary to recent reports, this is not sewerage being pumped. Foam is created because of turbulence in the sea that churns up natural substances.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SEMINAR HELD

eThekweni Municipality is not only embracing the trends and breakthroughs of digital transformation, but the City has already started making great strides in living up to the title of being a 'Smart City.' The City recently hosted the Digital Transformation seminar at the Inkosi Albert International Convention Centre from 19 to 21 July under the theme 'Harnessing our digital journey'. Chairperson of the Governance and Human Capital Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala, pictured, said 25 computer labs have been opened in the Municipality which is in line with the Smart Cities concept. Councillor Madlala said the Centres of Excellence provides the public with access to computers and free Wi-Fi, making job applications a paperless process while embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). During the seminar, it was discussed that by 2026 the real value of an organisation will be around digital transformation, data, algorithms, and software. Chief Learning Officer at the eThekweni Municipal Academy Professor Mpilo Ngubane said digital transformation is at the heart of most forward thinking organisations. "We need strategic improvement to address service delivery."



Chairperson: Governance & Human Capital Committee Cllr Nkosenhle Madlala



DURBAN FASHION FAIR MENTORSHIP UNDERWAY

THE amazing work being produced by 27 Durban Fashion Fair (DFF) mentees left Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli in awe during a site visit on 28 July.

The visit aimed to assess the work done behind the scenes before a garment is produced and sold at clothing retailers. The visit was conducted at the training centre where the local designers are being mentored for six months.

The DFF Mentorship Programme 2023 is being facilitated by Fezile Mdletshe, founder of Fezile Fashion Skills Academy.

Throughout the mentorship, designers are taught about textile selection, manufacturing, brand management, costing and entering the world of retail.

Mdletshe took Chairperson Ntuli and the delegation through the different stages of



Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli was impressed with the work of Durban Fashion Fair mentees.

the programme.

Also part of the visit was SMME Development Deputy Head Nonku Mthembu and Fashion Development Programme Manager Nonhlanhla Khumalo.

Councillor Ntuli was impressed with the work thus far, saying the Municipality made the right decision

to invest in the Fashion Development Programme to revive the local clothing and textiles industry and position Durban as Africa's fashion hub.

"We can already see the results with over 300 fashion designers benefitting from the programme since its inception in 2012, creating more than 100 sustainable jobs.

Approximately 15 participants are now supplying major retail chain stores such as Edgars while others have opened their boutiques," he said.

As the leader of the Economic Development and Planning Committee, Councillor Ntuli said they remain committed to supporting the programme.

Mdletshe said the mentees will showcase some of their collections during the September DFF which is themed 'Shades of Liberation' in front of buyers.

"This is part of the Municipality efforts to create markets to access opportunities." Mdletshe added that during the mentorship period, guest mentors from various fashion related fields are invited to present to the class.

Guest lecturers from the industry will be invited to assist in the development of the

Prepaid electricity customers urged to update their meters

FROM today, 1 August key change tokens will be available for all customers in eThekweni when purchasing prepaid electricity.

The new key change tokens will ensure that prepaid customers are still able to purchase electricity tokens as prepaid electricity meter software must be updated before November 2024.

This initiative falls under the Chairperson of the Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee Councillor Themba Mvubu, pictured.

From today going forward, when purchasing a prepaid electricity token, customers will also receive two sets of 20-digit numbers. These tokens will automatically be made available

when buying a recharge token from all vendors selling eThekweni electricity including banking apps.

Customers are advised to ensure that they redeem all previously purchased tokens before entering the key change token as these will become invalid once the key change token has been loaded.

"We want to advise prepaid customers that this is a Do It Yourself (DIY) initiative. The Municipality will not be sending contractors to customers' homes to help them with entering the key change tokens. Residents should not let anyone into their home pretending to offer help with updating prepaid meters," said Head of Electricity Maxwell

UPDATE YOUR ELECTRICITY PREPAID METER

HOW TO LOAD KEY CHANGE TOKENS:

- 1 Enter the first key change token
- 2 Enter the second key change token
- 3 Enter your prepaid electricity token

Customers are to ensure that **THE FIRST TWO KEY CHANGE TOKENS ARE UNLOADED BEFORE** entering the recharging token.

For queries related to the TID project, please contact our Contact Centre: 0803 111 111

Mthembu. He added that customers must note that the key change tokens are free of charge. It is important for customers to ensure that the key change tokens are entered into the meter. If they are not entered,

customers will not be able to make the next purchase of prepaid electricity.



KENNEDY ROAD FIRE VICTIMS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

ETHEKWINI Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni, together with the MEC of Social Development Nohlanhla Khoza, paid a visit to residents from the Kennedy Road Informal Settlement. Their visit comes after the informal settlement was ravaged by fire a few weeks ago.

Affected families were handed grocery vouchers of R2 080 per family. The grocery vouchers enables residents to buy supplies from the supermarket. The voucher excludes the purchase of alcohol and cigarettes and is not transferrable. Families also received mattresses, blankets, and toiletries. Since the fire, the Department of Social Development



EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni recently visited the Kennedy Road Informal Settlement that was ravaged by fire a few weeks ago.

has been providing three meals a day for the community and has spent about R4 million to provide aid thus far.

MEC Khoza said her

department was working to supply school uniforms for children whose homes were destroyed. She warned against the public registering themselves as being

affected residents when they were not.

Kennedy Road Informal Settlements residents were also urged not to build homes near each other as emergency vehicles cannot reach them if there was a problem.

Councillor Myeni thanked the provincial government for its support as well as donations from businesses and non-governmental organisations that have been received. She conveyed her appreciation to humanitarian organisations for always providing assistance in difficult times. She appealed for patience from affected residents while the City sought a permanent solution for housing in the area.

PARTNER TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

THE Economic Development Unit seeks to collaborate with organised business formations to promote the eThekweni region as a prime investment destination. The partnership aims to create favourable conditions for economic success.

The unit invites applications from formally constituted and registered non-profit companies with expertise in investment marketing, facilitation, and business retention. The deadline for application submission is 10 August 2023 at 4pm. Applicants must deliver their proposals to the Economic Development Unit Offices

based on the 11th Floor, Rennie House, 41 Margaret Mncadi Avenue.

Please note that the submission of an application does not guarantee proposal acceptance or partnership approval. Feedback on accepted proposals will be communicated in due course. For application criteria details go to <https://11nq.com/nl78y>. For more information or enquiries, contact Shunnon Tulsiram on Shunnon.tulsiram@durban.gov.za or call 031 311 4227, or Denny Thaver on denny.thaver@durban.gov.za or call 031 311 4037.

EThekweni stadia ready to hold new PSL season matches

SPORTS enthusiasts will have the opportunity to watch the DSTV Premiership 2023/24 season at six of eThekweni Municipality's stadiums. The new DSTV Premiership season begins on 4 August. King Zwelithini Stadium in uMlazi, Princess Magogo Stadium in KwaMashu, Moses Mabhida Stadium in the central business district, the Sugar Ray Xulu in Clermont, Kings Park next to Moses Mabhida Stadium, and Mpumalanga Stadium in Hammarsdale will host some of the matches. Stadia fall under the Community Services Committee, which is chaired by Councillor Zama Sokhabase, pictured.

Head of Stadia Vusi Mazibuko said six stadiums are ready to host matches under the Premier Soccer League and have complied with the requirements to stage games for the duration of the season. "Mpumalanga Stadium will host the premier soccer leagues matches for the first time in history," he said. Councillor Sokhabase said the Municipality will continue to bring sport events to communities for them to benefit economically and socially.



**Chairperson:
Community Services
Committee**
Cllr Zama
Sokhabase

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