

NEW R1.9 BILLION GIBA BUSINESS ESTATE BREAKS GROUND

THE R1.9 billion Giba Business Estate was launched recently by Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda, and developers Shaaz Moosa and Nel Nathoo of Sultex Investments.

This is the largest light industrial and logistics development to break ground within Durban's outer west region in more than three years. The development will not only create hundreds of short term and permanent jobs but also significantly boost the greater eThekweni region's GDP.

The development marked the opening of new land for industrial development that was previously zoned for agricultural use.

Minister Gordhan reiterated that it is incumbent on government to make it as easy as possible for businesses to invest. He urged government



Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan and eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda are joined by Economic Development Chairperson Councillor Thembo Ntuli, Ward 15 Councillor Thembelani Shezi and Giba Business Estate developer Shaaz Moosa at the sod turning ceremony of the Giba Business Estate.

officials to ensure that red tape is reduced, and decisions are made quickly to enable investment and employment creation. Minister Gordhan was also pleased with the work of

the City's Catalytic Projects Unit.

Speaking at the sod turning ceremony which included local community members, Mayor Kaunda said: "We are

honoured to launch yet another strategic investment project in the outer west region that will change the socio-economic landscape of the area."

Mayor Kaunda said the Giba Business Park is a welcome addition to a string of catalytic projects the City is implementing in this region.

These developments include the Keystone Logistics Park in Hammarsdale, Westtown in Shongweni and the Dry Port in Cato Ridge which inject billions of rands of investment in the outer west region.

"We are celebrating another milestone as we unveil a project that will not only support the thriving logistics sector along the N3 corridor, but also create jobs and business opportunities. With this project alone, we intend to create about 492 jobs during construction phase and about 4 661 permanent jobs post construction," he concluded.

IT'S OFFICIAL: ETHEKWINI'S TAP WATER IS ONE OF THE SAFEST TO DRINK IN THE COUNTRY

AN INDEPENDENT research study has confirmed that tap water in eThekweni Municipality is one of the safest to drink in South Africa.

The research investigation conducted by News24 and Netwerk24 journalists, funded by Truth First, a central lab partner and a network of laboratories all over the country revealed that water turbidity levels in eThekweni

were at an acceptable level.

"Turbidity measures the suspended particles, both chemical and biological, in water. High turbidity is not dangerous in itself, but it can point to all kinds of trouble, such as dirty pipes or issues with filtration at point of treatment. It also has an outsized aesthetic impact; highly turbid water looks nasty, and people may avoid it," the

report reads. In South Africa, drinking water is required to come in at 1 or below, as measured in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). "In the testing, only the Durban and Johannesburg taps have consistently been below that level. In Cape Town and parts of Bloemfontein, turbidity was consistently unacceptable at our testing points, researchers also found occasional trouble

at the Gqeberha tap," the report further states.

The research drew weekly samples in six cities namely Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban, Bloemfontein and Gqeberha.

eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said this independent research study indicates that the City is meeting the service delivery needs of residents.

EMPOWERING YOUTH TO START THEIR OWN BUSINESSES

A GROUP of 20 emerging entrepreneurs graduated on 21 August after completing a six-month Natural Beauty Products Manufacturing course. The ceremony was held at the Durban Botanical Gardens where they received their certificates from Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli. The programme was funded by the City's Business Support, Tourism, Markets and Agri-Business Unit.

Councillor Ntuli said the training aimed to empower young people with skills to participate in the mainstream economy.

He congratulated the

beneficiaries for their dedication in completing the course. The group was taught to manufacture various products including natural skin products, hair treatments, and other cosmetic products. Some of the products have completed the lab testing process and have been approved according to the standards of the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

The Municipality partnered with Futhi Mkhize, founder of ETHnomedicine Health Practitioner, who trained the 20 entrepreneurs.

Mkhize is a success story of the City. In 2012 she received business skills development



Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli with 20 Natural Beauty Products manufacturing course graduates. He also bought products.



from the Municipality to study Phytomedicine and Ethnomedicine. Today, she has her own manufacturing plants and has created

employment for others.

Councillor Ntuli said the Municipality was proud that "one of its own was able to transfer skills to others".

METRO POLICE ARREST MOST WANTED SWAZILAND FUGITIVE

ETHEKWINI Municipality's Metro Police Service have identified and arrested a Swaziland national in Durban who was wanted by the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) for a string of armed robberies and the murder of a Swaziland police official.

A description and warrant of arrest documents were supplied to the Metro Police by Interpol with a list of suspected locations within the Durban Central Business District. An operation between Metro Police's District and Inner-City team was conducted and members

were deployed on foot and motor patrol. Three suspects were identified during the investigation, with one positively matching the description.

"Swaziland's most wanted fugitive was apprehended outside a store in Durban. According to Interpol's report,

the apprehended perpetrator is one of three most wanted suspects by Swaziland's law enforcement agencies and has been on the run since December 2021. The suspect was detained at the Durban North South African Police Service Station," said City Spokesperson Gugu Sisilana.

KWANYUSWA PIPELINE UPGRADE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE



A pipeline upgrade to improve water supply in KwaNyuswa is at an advanced stage.

A PIPELINE upgrade to improve water supply in KwaNyuswa is at an advanced stage. The upgrade aims to augment the existing pipeline that receives water from the Thandokuhle Reservoir. The current pipeline no longer has enough capacity to supply the entire community due to increased demand for supply.

The upgrade is 7.2 km long and comprises of 300 and 400 diameter steel pipes.

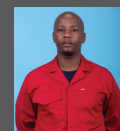
Head of the Water and Sanitation Unit Ednick

Msweli said several water infrastructure projects will reduce dependency on water tankers once completed.

"This is another milestone for the Municipality as we are committed to reducing dependency on water tankers. These projects will be completed over the next few years. We have several other projects in the works," he said. The KwaNyuswa pipeline upgrade is expected to be commissioned at the end of August. For the current

financial year, the City has set aside R61 million for the replacement of water pipelines.

This upgrade falls under Chairperson of the Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee Chairperson Councillor Themba Mvubu.



Chairperson: Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee Cllr Themba Mvubu



DEPUTY MAYOR LEADS BUSINESS BLITZ OPERATION

ETHEKWINI Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni led a business blitz operation in the South Beach and Mahatma Gandhi Road vicinity recently. The blitz saw multi stakeholder teams inspecting both formal and informal traders to ensure they are adhering to safety and health regulations. Food outlets, spaza shops, and liquor stores were visited.

“The blitz inspected compliance with business regulations and policies. It was appalling to find several business owners selling expired food items,” said Councillor Myeni.

Of the businesses inspected, the following contraventions were discovered:

- Expired food items
- Illegal manufacturing of sim cards



EThekwini Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni led a business compliance blitz in the South Beach and Mahatma Gandhi Road vicinity.

- Unconducive working environments
- Two arrests for failure to produce citizen documentation
- A fake business and liquor licence
- Two outlets were successfully closed due to non-compliance.

Councillor Myeni was accompanied by Whip of the Community Safety Committee

Councillor Sibusiso Mpanza, Metro Police Commissioner Sibonelo Mchunu and Metro Police Officers, eThekwini Health, and the Business Support Unit. “This operation was extremely important to enforce our by-laws. It was also highly successful. The commitment displayed by our stakeholder units is evidence of the City’s efforts to hold businesses accountable for

their operations,” she added.

Meanwhile, the Health Unit conducted a weeklong operation in Inanda to ensure businesses comply with health and safety regulations. A livestock selling business situated in the Mtshebheni area of Inanda was fined following the discovery of unauthorised slaughtering of animals for human consumption at an unapproved premises. The blitz involves various City departments, including the Metro Police, Fire Department, Business Licensing, and the Cleansing and Solid Waste Unit.

The campaign aims to assess local businesses’ adherence to health and safety regulations.

CITY HOSTS BRICS TRADE AND INVESTMENT SEMINAR



More than 50 delegates from Brazil, Russia, India, and China attended the BRICS Trade and Investment Seminar.

TO FURTHER position KwaZulu-Natal as a gateway to Africa and the world, around 50 delegates from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa attended the BRICS Seminar on Trade and Investment on 17 and 18 August at the Elangeni Hotel in Durban.

During the seminar, City and provincial leadership had

the opportunity to showcase programmes and projects that have the potential to attract investment.

Delegates also visited catalytic projects to explore investment opportunities available in eThekwini and the province. The site visits assured potential investors that Durban and KwaZulu-Natal are open for business

and that government is working hard to create a conducive environment for businesses to operate.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said: “We are pleased that this platform will inform BRICS delegates and potential investors keen on exploring investment opportunities in the City and province.”

City Manager Musa Mbhele said the City is thrilled to be part of the seminar which will expose eThekwini to many business opportunities and investment. “The City is earmarked for massive growth from several catalytic projects over the next few years which will transform the City’s economic landscape,” he said.

ETHEKWINI GAMES EMPOWER THE YOUTH

THE City’s efforts to keep youth occupied through sport is bearing fruits. This comes as the eThekwini Games are currently underway in various wards throughout the City. It is a pre-event to select a squad that will be trained to participate in the South African Local Government Association Games.

Chairperson of the Community Services Committee Councillor Zama Sokhabase said youth empowerment remains a fundamental part of the City’s agenda.



Chairperson: Community Services Committee
Cllr Zamazulu Sokhabase



ETHEKWINI AND BREMEN COLLABORATE TO BUILD DIGITAL AND DATA TOOLS

ETHEKWINI Municipality and the City of Bremen, Germany will collaborate to build digital and data tools for decision making. This comes after they secured grant funding from the Service Agency's Partnership Projects for Sustainable Local Development. The partnership follows a visit by a City delegation to Bremen in 2022 which was led by the Chairperson of the Governance and Human Capital Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala. The project will start in September and will see eThekweni use their expertise to support Bremen build a Strat Hub for its citizens. On the other hand, Bremen has built a



A delegation from eThekweni visited Bremen, Germany to nurture partnerships and strengthen cooperation between the two cities. Pictured is Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala and Dr Olaf Joachim.

state-of-the-art digital twin which supports decision-making. As part of the agreement, they will support eThekweni establish its own

digital twin. The project will be driven by the Strat Hub team under the leadership of Dr Sandile Mbatha from the Strategy Office.

CITY'S PEP MIGRATION GEARED TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

TO IMPROVE the lives of residents and catalyse job creation, eThekweni Municipality unveiled a new chapter on 18 August at the Durban Exhibition Centre.

The event marked a pivotal point as the Municipality's commitment to the Presidential Employment Programme (PEP) materialised through a transition to non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

This transition embraces the core values of inclusivity, community development, and economic growth.

PEP, a funded initiative under National Treasury, finds its home within the Neighbourhood Development Programme Grant Office.

The original PEP business plan encompassed four crucial areas of focus: public space management, environmental management (including food security), integrated waste management, and informal settlement upgrades.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee, Councillor Thembo Ntuli said the alignment of purpose between the Municipality and the partnering NGOs creates a robust network poised to foster positive change.



Chairperson: Economic Development and Planning Committee
Cllr Thembo Ntuli

RECRUITMENT DRIVE TO BEEF UP FIREFIGHTING WORKFORCE



ETHEKWINI Municipality is beefing up its manpower in the Fire and Rescue Department and has embarked on a recruitment drive to employ 35 firefighters as part of its learnership programme.

This is in addition to the over 500 firemen and women already in the employ of the Municipality.

City Spokesperson Gugu Sisilana said the successful candidates have an opportunity to be permanently employed after the 12-month learnership programme. The learnership recruitment drive is currently underway.

"The advert for the Fire and Rescue Operations Training Programme can be found in the Metro Ezasegasani

newspaper and via the online portal at www.durban.gov.za. It outlines essential requirements as well as the physical tests applicants will be subjected to," she said.

Applicants will be subjected to registration, a written assessment, a physical fitness assessment, security clearance, and a medical assessment.

All applicants must report to the Durban Exhibition Centre on 21 to 24 August 2023 from 8am to 4pm for registration.

For enquiries about the programme contact the eThekweni Municipal Academy's Nokulunga Sibiya on 031 322 7535/ 3192 or Confidence Gumede from the Fire and Emergency Services on 031 311 5942

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

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