

MAYOR OUTLINES BOLD PLANS TO ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY AND ATTRACT INVESTMENT

TO ENSURE a steady and reliable water supply, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said there are 115 approved water and sanitation projects planned.

Mayor Kaunda was speaking at a media briefing on 25 August at the recently commissioned Shongweni Reservoir where he outlined bold plans to build and maintain Municipal infrastructure.

“We are delighted to hand over this R28 million water reservoir to the community of Shongweni,” he said.

He said the City is currently finalising the construction of another new water reservoir in Adams Mission which will address water shortages in Mbumbulu, KwaMakhutha and Adams Mission.

Other areas where we are upgrading and repairing our water infrastructure include Ntuzuma, uMlazi, Folweni, Maphephetheni, and Umzinyathi, he added.

He said Council also recently approved the reprioritisation of the water and sanitation capital budget to accommodate urgent priorities. An amount of R255 million is to be reprioritised to fund several projects.

Speaking on road infrastructure, Mayor Kaunda said 114 access roads that were damaged during the floods last year have been repaired at a cost of R23.6 million. This includes 27 bridges that were washed away that have also been repaired.

Regarding development investment and job creation, he said the City, working with Infrastructure South Africa, has committed to spending R10 billion on bulk infrastructure



The recently commissioned Shongweni Reservoir was unveiled by, from left, Head of Water and Sanitation Ednick Msweli, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli, eThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda, City Manager Musa Mbhele, and Ward 83 Councillor Bheki Mngwengwe. INSERT: Mayor Kaunda also met with Shongweni residents to outline service delivery plans.

for eight catalytic projects in eThekweni. This will bring over R217 billion of investment and create over 300 000 jobs.

Other developments include Keystone Logistics Park in Hammarsdale, Westown in Shongweni and the Dry Port in Cato Ridge which will inject billions of rands of investment in the outer west region, he said.

“We also have grand plans for the beachfront as it will soon boast upmarket developments which form an integral part of the City’s Proactive Land Release Strategy. Along North Beach, we are giving Circus Circus, Bike and Bean, and Minitown a major facelift.”

Bike and Bean will transform into North Beach Lifestyle (a world-class restaurant), Circus Circus is currently being renovated into a stunning fusion of Africanism and Art Deco and will be named Durban Beach Café. The anticipated opening for this venue is October 2023 and will create 45 jobs after construction.

The Minitown site will be a mixed-use hotel development which will encompass arts and crafts, kiosks for small businesses, retail spaces, a salon and spa, as well as dining. This R170 million investment will create 150 jobs.

Mayor Kaunda also touched on several issues that have

been of interest recently;

- **Excellence Awards (City Stars).** He said while noting the concerns of the public regarding the awards, it is not unusual for an organisation to reward excellent performance. He said the awards form part of the items that were approved by Council when it adopted its budget at the beginning of the current financial year. Therefore, it is incorrect to suggest that the City is redirecting resources that are meant to accelerate service delivery to the awards.
- **Insourcing of cleaners and security guards.** He said Council adopted the motion which called for the insourcing of all security guards and cleaners. A feasibility study to determine the cost of insourcing as opposed to outsourcing these services will be conducted.
- **Engagement with ratepayers.** Mayor Kaunda said through these engagements where they worked to find solutions, he hopes no ratepayer organisation will persuade residents to boycott the payment of rates. Apart from it being illegal to boycott paying rates, residents cannot withhold payment for services that have been rendered.
- **Disrupted housing projects.** He said the Municipality is consolidating the list of all stalled and disrupted housing projects to ensure these projects are expedited. Plans are in place to unblock the stalled Umbhayi Housing Project in oThongathi. These delays were not caused by the City but were a result of several factors beyond the City’s control.

CITY TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY RECYCLING PROGRAMME IN BUFFELSDRAAI

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda has kept his promise of returning to Buffelsdraai to provide feedback on issues raised by the community following the closure of the landfill site to waste pickers.

During a community meeting on 27 August, Mayor Kaunda said the City has commenced with the process of profiling waste pickers in the area. This process will culminate in the establishment of a community recycling programme in the next six months.

The Municipality is currently engaging various private sector companies who will partner with the City to implement the programme. This initiative will also assist in keeping



EThekwini Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda and eThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni met with the community of Buffelsdraai.

the community clean and address the challenge of illegal dumping.

“About 40 young people will be recruited for three months

to clean the area and clear illegal dumping sites. We have also commenced with the programme of establishing a waste segregation site in the

vicinity of the landfill site,” said Mayor Kaunda.

Those who are no longer interested in waste picking have been assisted to form agricultural cooperatives.

Another issue raised by the community was the challenge of homelessness.

As part of the City’s intervention, 22 homeless people are currently undergoing rehabilitation at various health institutions and will thereafter be channelled through various skills development programmes that are run by the Municipality.

Those who have qualifications will be enrolled to be part of the Municipality’s work readiness programme and receive monthly stipends.

Changes to special disposals at the City’s landfill sites

ETHEKWINI residents are urged to note that there will be changes regarding the disposal of condemned food waste and special disposals, including counterfeit goods at City landfill sites.

From 1 September 2023, all condemned food waste either from shops or warehouses and food items that have exceeded its shelf life or expiry date or has been contaminated during the production process

will no longer be accepted at Cleansing and Solid Waste (CSW) Unit landfill sites.

Customers are encouraged to make alternative arrangements with other available waste management facilities for such

disposal.

For more information and enquiries, customers can contact the CSW Helpline on 031 311 8804.

Durban Business Fair: Celebrating 25 years of empowering SMMEs

THE TANGIBLE difference the Durban Business Fair (DBF) has made to assist small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in the City over the past 25 years was highlighted during a celebration on 24 August.

The 2023 DBF will be held under the theme: ‘25 Years of building sustainable businesses’ taking place from 22 to 24 September at the Durban Exhibition Centre.

Deputy Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Phili Ndlovu said: “What started in 1998 as an Arts and Craft exhibition with less than 100 exhibitors has grown

to become South Africa’s premiere business exhibition platform.” She said more than 100 000 people have participated in the DBF over the years with over 20 000 sustainable jobs created.

Business owners shared their stories of success. Sthembiso Ngubo of Afromed Medical Services, who provides medical services, said: “The platform has been a pillar of strength for us as we have gained exposure and established partnerships and clients which helped our business grow.”

Nkazimulo Ngidi, who manufactures traditional attire, said the DBF has allowed her



The success stories of 25 years of the Durban Business Fair assisting SMMEs was lauded during an event recently. The new logo for the fair to commemorate 25 years was also launched.

to extend her client base to outside South Africa.

“I have clients from the United States of America that I was able to establish through the DBF International

Pavilion.”

To receive updates and more information on #DBF25 follow @Durban Business Fair on Facebook.



INTENSIFYING INFORMAL ECONOMY SECTOR SUPPORT

THE CITY has set aside R120 million in the next three financial years to build and upgrade infrastructure for the informal economy. This was revealed by Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Chairperson Councillor Thembo Ntuli. He was speaking during the two-day Informal Economy Summit that took place on 22 and 23 August. The summit aimed to provide dialogue between traders, informal economy structures and the Municipality to strengthen relations. The Municipality also presented programmes and plans aimed at developing the sector. These developments will take the form of business hives, retail markets, a traditional herbs and medicine market, a mealie cooker facility, Buy-



Economic Development and Planning Committee Chairperson Councillor Thembo Ntuli outlined plans to develop the informal economy sector during a recent two-day summit.

back centres (for cardboard recycling), food court markets, shelters, kiosks, container parks and storage facilities for traders goods, as well as demarcated sites along the street pavements. Councillor Ntuli said: "Several developments are underway. This sector is recognised as one of the main contributors

to employment creation in the country which is why we continue to invest in this sector." He said the informal economy sector contributes R15 billion to the City's economy annually. Councillor Ntuli said the City will issue up to 4 000 street trading permits by 2024 to create job opportunities.

Employment Equity Amendment Roadshow

DISCUSSION around employment equity (EE) will dominate during the EE Amendment Roadshow taking place tomorrow, 31 August in eThekweni.

The roadshow will focus on the recently updated EE Act (EEA), workplace equity, affirmative action, and related topics.

Minister of Employment and Labour Thulas Nxesi and Deputy Minister of the Department of Employment and Labour Boitumelo Moloi will address the Chatsworth community and residents from neighbouring areas during the roadshow session.

The EE Amendments were signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa in April this year.

The ministerial programme forms part of the Department's EE national roadshows which are being held under the theme 'Real transformation makes business sense'.

The objective of the EE amendments is to reduce the regulatory burden for small employers, to empower the Minister to regulate the sector-specific numerical EE targets, to promulgate Section 53, and to strengthen compliance, including the issuing of EE compliance certificates.

Departmental services such as Public Employment Services, Compensation Fund (which is compensation for occupational injuries and diseases), and Unemployment Insurance Fund, will also be provided on-site as part of the initiative.

The Ministerial visit on Thursday preceded an EE workshop that took place on 30 August in Durban.

The Ministerial Roadshow is scheduled to take place as follows:

Venue: The uMhlathuzana Community Centre, Chatsworth

Date: 31 August 2023

Time: 8am to 4pm

CALLING ON GRADUATES TO APPLY FOR WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMMES

THE ETHEKWINI Municipal Academy (EMA) has advertised a call out for graduates to apply for work experience learning in the City. This is according to a needs analysis requested by individual units.

The Outreach and Capacity Building Programmes allows for approximately 1 000 graduates who have either degrees or diplomas to gain work experience.

The closing date for applications is 8 September 2023.

Applications must be submitted online by logging onto www.durban.gov.za and clicking on Jobs. Choose Internships and Learnerships. Applicants must ensure that they choose the correct option to be able to see the jobs.

In order to qualify, there are a list of requirements including that applicants must be

in possession of a recognised qualification(s) which should not be older than five years. Applicants must also be South African citizens.

Due to the large amount of correspondence anticipated, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Should applicants not hear from the Municipality within three months of the closing date, please accept that the application was unsuccessful.

There are opportunities available in the following fields:

- Finance and Economics
- Administration
- Agriculture, Natural Sciences, and Environmental Studies
- Life Sciences
- Engineering and Built Environment
- Management
- Health Sciences

- Law
- Art and Design
- Humanities

Deputy Head of EMA Puleng Ngubane said work integrated learnerships offers graduates the opportunity to work for the City. For enquiries contact Siyanda Cebekhulu or Lihle Sishi on 031 322 2460 or 031 311 3183 /3192.

This programme falls under Chairperson of the Governance and International Relations Chairperson Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala.

• Visit www.durban.gov.za to view the Metro Ezesegagasini for full details on the work integrated learning.



Chairperson: Governance & Human Capital Committee
Cllr Nkosenhle Madlala



UPGRADES TO EMONA RESERVOIR COMPLETE

THE UPGRADE of the Emona Reservoir has been completed with communities from Wards 61 and 62 benefiting from a steady water supply. The reservoir has a storage capacity of six megalitres, translating to a much larger storage capacity.

The benefiting communities are Emona, Van Rova Gardens, Ramiah Drive, The Hill, Metcalf Drive, Reservoir Avenue, and Dulharia Drive.

Head of the Water and Sanitation Unit Ednick Msweli said due to the increased demand in the area, there was a need for the City to increase the storage capacity.

The City increased the reservoir storage to six megalitres to address water challenges in oThongathi and surrounding areas.

OThongathi was one of the areas severely impacted by the floods last year which saw widespread damage to water and sanitation infrastructure. Among the projects which



The City has completed the upgrade of the Emona Reservoir which now has an increased storage capacity of six megalitres.

the City has undertaken to improve water supply includes the restoration of the water works. The City's teams are also attending to bursts and leaks of pipelines. The construction of the KwaNqetho and the Adams K5 and K6 reservoirs are also at an advanced stage.

This upgrade falls under

the Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee under Chairperson Councillor Themba Mvubu.



Chairperson: Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee
Cllr Themba Mvubu

SPORTS TOURNAMENT TO BOOST LOCAL TOWNSHIP ECONOMY

THE CITY urges informal traders who are interested in plying their trade in and around the COSAFA Women's Championship League venues to do so through the City's Business Support Unit.

The COSAFA Women's Championship League kicked off on 30 August at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium in Clermont with the following fixtures:

- Lesotho vs Malawi
- Zambia vs Botswana

The CAF Women's Champions League will be played in Durban until 8 September. Match tickets are free on a first come, first served basis. They will be distributed at the stadia

on match day until the full allocation has been met.

Chairperson of the Community Services Committee Councillor Zama Sokhabase urged informal traders to maximise on this opportunity.

"The tournament provides an opportunity for the township economy to be regenerated."

Councillor Sokhabase explained how interested traders can apply for trading permits to work in and around the sporting venues for the games. "We have a process in place that will ensure fairness and equal opportunity for all traders," she said.

Informal traders who are

interested in applying must:

- Submit an application letter to eThekweni Municipality's Business Support Unit.
- Consult the Environmental Health Unit on Archie Gumede Street (Old Fort Road) for a permit.
- The Business Support Unit will assess and consider the application based on competency and ensuring that all requirements are met.



Chairperson Community Services
Cllr Zamazulu Sokhabase

City condemns acts of land invasion

THE scourge of land invasion continues to hamper several of the Municipality's planned strategic projects.

The City has noted an increase in the number of illegal land invasions and is doing everything in its power to prevent the mushrooming of new informal settlements, within the ambit of the law.

Prevention of land invasion requires a joint effort from all stakeholders. Units such as Human Settlements, Security Management, Metro Police, and Safer Cities have pledged their commitment to implement the integrated operational strategy to combat land invasion.

eThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni, who is also the Chairperson of the Emergency Services Committee, said the City is working hard to provide those living in existing informal settlements with basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, waste collection, and roads.

The Municipality has proven its commitment to the eradication of slums and informal settlements by providing over 16 000 new homes in the past five years to disadvantaged and unemployed residents.

Land invasion can be reported on 031 311 4699 / 031 311 4667.



Deputy Mayor and Chairperson: Emergency Services Committee
Cllr Zandile Myeni

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