

## CITY AND UMHLANGA RATEPAYERS WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

**E**THEKWINI Municipality and the uMhlanga Ratepayers and Residents Association (URRA) have vowed to work together to find lasting solutions to address service delivery challenges in the area.

The leadership of the Municipality, led by eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda and eThekweni Speaker Councillor Thabani Nyawose, met with the URRA at the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

Leading the URRA delegation was Terry MacLarty who said that as ratepayers, they want to make sure that residents get value for money for the services rendered by the City.

“One of our challenges is retail outlets that are operating outside regulated hours. This results in noise pollution and crime and contravention of the City’s by-laws,” said MacLarty.

Other issues raised included sewer spillages and the malfunctioning of the Ohlange Pumpstation as well as the construction of the public transport facility for buses and taxis around the uMhlanga Oceans Mall. She said these



**A successful engagement between the City and the uMhlanga Ratepayers and Residents Association was held, where a plan of action to address service delivery challenges was discussed.**

challenges affect tourism and impact the economy of the area. In response to the challenges raised, the Municipality said it is working with the taxi industry to finalise consultations of a new holding area for taxis and buses. The site has already been identified. The City assured ratepayers that roadworks

around the Oceans Mall will be completed in October this year.

Regarding law enforcement, Metro Police has beefed up its personnel by 35 members in the area to maintain high visibility. They will be conducting joint operations with the South African Police Service. To address water and sanitation challenges,

the Municipality has recently repaired the Ohlange Pumpstation which is being constantly monitored to ensure that it operates smoothly. The Municipality has also reprioritised the budget to ensure that its water and sewer infrastructure is functional. For the Ohlange Pumpstation, the Municipality has allocated R10 million.

McLarty thanked the City leadership for creating a conducive space to discuss issues. “We are encouraged by the responses provided by the City and we are looking forward to working together to ensure that the resolutions taken from the meeting are implemented.”

Mayor Kaunda commended the Speaker for convening the meeting and conveyed his gratitude to the ratepayer association for engaging with the City constructively and amicably.

“This indicates that we all have the best interests of the City at heart. We want to assure you that we are working tirelessly to make eThekweni a preferred destination for investment and tourists.”

## Independent scientists once again confirm that eThekweni’s tap water is safe for drinking

INDEPENDENT scientists continue to laud eThekweni Municipality for its safe potable water. This is after the latest water quality tests results were shared by the Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT) at the Durban University of Technology showing that the City’s water remains safe to drink. This comes hot on

the heels of a News24 and Network 24 independent investigation which also confirmed that the City’s water quality remains of good quality. EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said the City is encouraged by the positive results from independent institutions. “Our drinking water is regularly monitored

at our laboratory and tested by experts to ensure its safety. This is done in line with the internationally accepted water quality standards. This year, our laboratory underwent a re-assessment process conducted by the South African National Accreditation (SANAS) which resulted in the lab continuing with its accreditation for

another five years,” said Mayor Kaunda. The IWWT sampled and tested water from 17 areas within eThekweni Municipality. The water samples were collected on 30 August 2023 in the northern, southern, and western parts of Durban. Results indicated that no E.coli was present in any of the samples tested.

# NEW FLEET OF TRACTORS TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY



**EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda unveiled 30 tractors which will be used for grass cutting in the City.**

CITY’S efforts to improve grass cutting services were welcomed when the latest grass cutting schedule and a new fleet of tractors were unveiled on 1 September at the Wiggins Sports Ground in Cato Manor. EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda unveiled 30 tractors, which will be used for grass cutting in Municipal areas. He also outlined the latest grass cutting schedule, with the first of a five-week cycle commencing on 1 September and ending on 6 October. The five-week cycle is one of seven cycles that will be implemented until 31 May 2024. Mayor Kaunda thanked

Municipal workers who work tirelessly to ensure grass is cut, despite sometimes very difficult circumstances. “We applaud your efforts and hard work to ensure that the City is clean and well maintained,” he said. In launching the new fleet of tractors, Mayor Kaunda was confident that these resources will address grass cutting challenges experienced. He encouraged collaboration among Municipal departments to achieve a clean City. “Areas, particularly in townships and rural areas, that were dumpsites should be converted into areas of attractions as part of the City’s

beautification programme,” he said. Following the launch, there was a commemoration of Arbour Week with officials participating in a tree planting ceremony. Mayor Kaunda said the Municipality is committed to promoting green living as this was crucial to address the degradation of environmental assets. The project falls under Chairperson of the Community Services Committee Councillor Zama Sokhabase.



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

## Comment on the Draft Problem Building Amendment By-law

ETHEKWINI Municipality calls on the public to comment on the Draft Problem Building Amendment By-law. The closing date for submissions is 30 September 2023.

The City originally introduced the Problem Building By-law in 2015 to identify, control, and rehabilitate structures deemed as problem buildings.

The Problem Buildings First Amendment By-Law 2023 presents several amendments to the initial 2015 by-law. These amendments are designed to offer a more structured and comprehensive approach to the identification, management, and rectification

of issues related to problem buildings within the City.

Notably, the introduction of maintenance standards, the formation of a steering committee, and the provision for appointing an administrator underscore the Municipality’s commitment to addressing this issue more effectively.

EThekweni Municipality is implementing a special focussed programme to rid the City of problem buildings in the central business district. Over the past few years there has been a marked difference, especially in the Mahatma Gandhi Road/Point area. The City has also demolished

numerous buildings which posed a danger to the community in the nearby vicinity.

•The by-law is available on [www.durban.gov.za](http://www.durban.gov.za), at Sizakala Centres, libraries and at City Hall. Comments can be emailed to [Nolitha.Chiliza@durban.gov.za](mailto:Nolitha.Chiliza@durban.gov.za) and Daniels Pentasaib: [daniels.pentasaib@durban.gov.za](mailto:daniels.pentasaib@durban.gov.za).



**Chairperson: Economic Development and Planning Committee**  
Cllr Thembo Ntuli

## UPGRADES OF FOUR UMDLOTI PUMPSTATIONS COMPLETED

THE City’s Water and Sanitation Unit has recently completed the upgrade of four Umdloti wastewater pumpstations along the beach. Each pumpstation has been installed with two pumps and an additional diesel drive pump to prevent an overflow during loadshedding. The diesel motor will be able to run for eight hours. Work is also underway at the old Ohlange Pumpstation to get it back online. It will support the main pumpstation which is currently operational. Both pumpstations are on the same site and will run concurrently, once the repairs at the old pumpstation are complete. The City also wishes to clarify that there is no sewerage being kept in black refuse bags at the Ohlange Pumpstation as claimed on social media.

The black refuse bags that were on site contained rags and other foreign objects that were pulled from mechanical screens and were obviously tainted with sewerage.

The City’s sanitation infrastructure is faced with a challenge of misuse from the public and businesses who dispose of foreign objects into the system.

Ohlange is one of the sites that often receives large amounts of foreign objects coming into the system which leads to clogging of the pumps.

This then often results in failures.

There is no way to process rags as the machinery is only for processing of sewerage.

Most of the City’s wastewater pumpstations are operational. However, from time to time, there are mechanical breakdowns, which are attended to.



# JOY AS 1 000 BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE TITLE DEEDS

THE lives of around 1 000 families were changed for the better on 1 September when the City awarded them with the title deeds to their homes.

The title deed handover took place at the Cornubia Sports Field.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Siphosiso Nkosi together with eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda and Chairperson of the Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee Councillor Themba Mvubu officiated the title deeds handover ceremony.

Having a title deed gives housing beneficiaries the right to ownership of their properties.

The title deed handover comes as MEC Nkosi is accelerating the Title Deed Restoration Programme



**The City distributed 1 000 title deeds to residents from across the City on 1 September with eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda, MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Siphosiso Nkosi, and Chairperson of Human Settlements and Infrastructure Councillor Themba Mvubu.**

as a priority in his office. Through the programme, the Department hopes to speed up the opening of the formal property market in areas like Cornubia and other townships in eThekweni.

Among the recipients was

91-year-old Regina Mthlangane from Chesterville who said she was relieved to have the title deed to her home.

MEC Nkosi encouraged beneficiaries to not sell their houses.

"We are aware that some

people after applying for and receiving houses, go on to sell it. We discourage the public from doing so," he said.

He added that it was pleasing to see title deeds being awarded to residents from several different areas.

Mayor Kaunda said it was a special occasion to give people rightful ownership.

"We are restoring the dignity of people today through the title deed handover. The Cornubia Housing Project is continuing this year to meet the demand for housing. I encourage you to treat Municipal infrastructure with respect. We congratulate all the title deed beneficiaries today," he said.

He said they aimed to build 13 000 houses in Cornubia to bring people closer to work and other opportunities.

## ETHEKWINI REMAINS OPEN FOR BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT



**The City co-hosted a business engagement to promote investment in the City.**

TO REITERATE that eThekweni is open for business and investment, the City co-hosted a business engagement with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently.

The event, which was attended by prominent business leaders, aimed to address business concerns that have impacted operations within the City. It also provided an opportunity for eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda to engage in

meaningful discussions with the Minister of Trade and Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel. The engagement drew attention to the collaboration of diverse business stakeholders during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This partnership led to the formulation of an Economic Recovery Strategy, now serving as a blueprint for addressing various types of disasters that may arise in the City.

Mayor Kaunda expressed gratitude to the business sector for their unwavering support in revitalising the City's economy, following the crises.

"Despite the losses experienced, the business community's commitment to both the City and its residents

must be applauded. In line with fostering proactive dialogue, the City has established several platforms to engage with organised business entities. These platforms encompass the eThekweni Economic Council, the CEOs Forum, the KZN Growth Coalition 8-Aside, and a newly formed committee of technical experts from both the City and the business sector," said Mayor Kaunda.

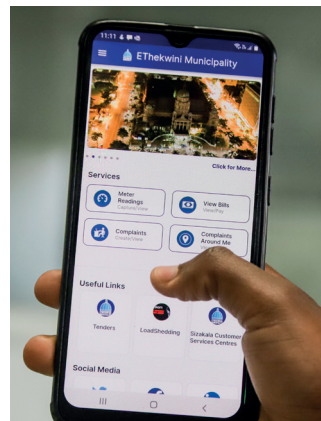
He said this technical infrastructure committee focuses its efforts on tackling crucial infrastructure challenges relating to water, roads, and electricity. This is done with the aim of further enhancing the City's growth, service delivery, and major investment projects, he added.



# ETHEKWINI APP GROWS BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

THE City's recently launched mobile application is steadily gaining popularity as a convenient means for residents to access Municipal services. The eThekwini Mobile App was introduced as an alternative method to ensure that residents receive services without having to physically visit the City's Sizakala Centres. With more than 18 000 downloads, the new app has proven to be a valuable tool with over 5 000 cases logged to date. Of these logged case, more than 3 600 have been successfully resolved. The app's user report shows that most users are

registering complaints related to electricity and water issues, while a smaller percentage are reporting cases involving pollution and traffic. Acting Head for Sizakala Centres Mpuvu Skweyiya is pleased with the City's progress in the digital age. "We are ambitious about becoming a smart city and the new app will make it easy and faster for customers to get the information they need without having to visit our walk-in centres," said Skweyiya. Activations will soon be commencing at Sizakala Centres where customers will be assisted to download the new app and



be shown how to maximise using it.

Although the app is currently not compatible with Huawei devices, the issue is being attended to during the second phase of the app launch. Municipal employees, who are also

ratepayers, have praised the effectiveness of the app. Russel Stow said: "I have downloaded the app and use the meter reading function which I find useful."

Kemeshni Govender agreed saying she has been using the app for two weeks and finds it "user friendly and informative."

The mobile application falls under the Chairperson of Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala.



**Chairperson:  
Governance & Human  
Capital Committee**  
Cllr Nkosenhle  
Madlala

## CITY TO HOST DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

MINISTER of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Thembu Nkandimeng will convene the 4th meeting of BRICS Ministers responsible for disaster management portfolios on 8 September in eThekwini. The meeting will be preceded by the 5th Joint Task Force technical engagement taking place on 7 September.

The two meetings will be held under the theme 'Strengthening post pandemic socio-economic recovery in the BRICS countries'. The theme is informed by two of the five cabinet approved priorities which are, transforming education and skills development for the future and strengthening post-pandemic socio-economic

recovery and the attainment of the 2030 agenda on sustainable development. This theme also resonates with Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework (SDF) for Disaster Risk Reduction which advocates for enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The hosting of the 4th meeting of BRICS Ministers responsible for disaster management in eThekwini Municipality is of great significance for the City.



**Deputy Mayor  
and Chairperson:  
Emergency Services  
Committee**  
Cllr Zandile Myeni

## A PROMISING OUTLOOK FOR ETHEKWINI

ETHEKWINI Municipality has marked a significant achievement in the 2022/23 fiscal year with a 3.7% increase in approved building plans for the City, totalling 4 748. This is compared to the previous year's count of 4 579 revealed by The Durban Edge Datastory. This surge in approved plans portrays a beacon of hope for the economic and a positive stride towards economic recovery. Key contributors to this growth are the north region with 298 building plans, closely followed by the outer west with 273 plans, inner west with 229 plans, central with a total of 226 plans, and the south region approving

104 plans. The additions and alterations category claimed the largest share at 66.5%, followed by residential plans at 31.8%. Commercial and industrial plans comprise 0.9% and 0.8% respectively. The north and central regions were responsible for the majority of approved industrial building plans during the last quarter of the financial year. While the number of approved plans increased, there was a notable 9.7% decrease in the total value of these plans, falling from R11 billion to R10 billion. The 2022/23 approved building plans are expected to contribute around R2.3 billion to the GDP.

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