

RESERVOIR LEVELS IN UMHLANGA AND DURBAN NORTH CONTINUE TO IMPROVE



City leadership conducted an oversight visit of the scouring of the Northern Aqueduct to release air in the pipeline that may be causing a blockage in the system.

MOST households in uMhlanga and Durban North are receiving water. This comes as reservoirs levels in uMhlanga and Durban North continue to improve as the inflow supply and pressures on the Northern aqueduct are sustaining.

The Municipality is pleased to note that inflow and pressure required are sustaining. This is thanks to its technical teams who have been working tirelessly to resolve the low pressure that resulted in the water supply outage.

Head of the Water and Sanitation Unit Ednick Msweli said the City's highly skilled teams have been working tirelessly to resolve the low pressure that resulted in the water supply outage.

"Several interventions have been implemented including inspecting the pipeline, checking each air valve and replacing those found vandalised. This took time as there was no visible leak to make it easy to identify, the problem on the surface. We are pleased to note that our inflows and pressure required are sustaining and that all

reservoirs should be back to normal within a day or two," he said.

Other interventions undertaken was to supply the northern areas from a different reservoir at UMngeni-UThukela Water's Durban Heights Waterworks.

This was intended to bypass the section of the Northern Aqueduct suspected to have the restriction.

The outage is suspected to have been caused by airlock in the system.

During the inspection of the 27 km pipeline, technical teams discovered that an air valve was tampered with and

another valve was vandalised. These valves have since been repaired by the Municipality and a case of sabotage was opened at the Greenwood Park Police Station.

The affected reservoirs are expected to take at least two days to return to normal levels.

Residents are requested to use water sparingly to prevent reservoirs from running empty as this may prolong the recovery period.

Technical teams remain on the ground to tweak the system to ensure the best efficiency to balance all reservoirs.

BUMPER LONG WEEKEND BRINGS ECONOMIC BOOST FOR DURBAN



Several events were held in the City over the long weekend including the National Heritage Day celebration at Princess Magogo Stadium in KwaMashu and the Durban Fashion Fair.

DURBAN experienced a bumper long heritage weekend from 22 to 25 September with an influx of visitors to the City attending various annual calendar events.

Estimates indicate that there was over 65 percent occupancy rate for accommodation establishments.

The direct spend expected in eThekweni is R120 million with a projected contribution of R300 million to the GDP and a contribution of 1 300 jobs.

In addition, Durban continues to attract major events that contribute to the local tourism industry. On 24 September, the City hosted the National Heritage Day celebration at Princess Magogo Stadium in KwaMashu which was attended by thousands of people. The event was led by Deputy President Paul Mashatile, Minister of Sport, Arts and

Culture Zizi Kodwa, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube and eThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni.

The celebration also served to officially kick-start the National Indigenous Games Festival taking place at Hoy Park from 24 to 30 September. The games are held simultaneously with the Beautiful Things Craft Exhibition.

Councillor Myeni said the City's tourism sector is on the road to recovery.

"The City's Sizzling Summer campaign, which was recently launched, is underway with Durban Tourism teams embarking on national and international tours to promote destination Durban. This is to ensure that targeted visitors flock to the City during the summer holidays, she said.

Councillor Myeni also

applauded the recent announcement that Durban's iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium will host the MTN 8 final match between Mamelodi Sundowns and defending champions Orlando Pirates on 7 October 2023.

"Sports tourism remains a major contributor to the growth of the tourism industry in the City and we look forward to this exciting weekend," she said.

As part of destination promotion campaign and in a bid to ensure that Durban attracts more tourists to the City, on 10 September Durban Tourism hosted a United Arab Emirates trade and media delegation.

The aim was for the delegation to learn first-hand about destination Durban and its many attractions such as hotels, tours, airlines and much more.

SALVATION ARMY CELEBRATION BOOSTS LOCAL ECONOMY



EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni was on hand to welcome Salvation Army General Lyndon Buckingham who arrived in the City for the 140th Salvation Army celebration.

ETHEKWINI'S economy received a boost as more than 5 000 people visited the City for the 140th celebration of the Salvation Army which took place at Albert Park over the weekend. EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni welcomed Salvation Army General Lyndon Buckingham at King Shaka International Airport.

The Salvation Army is known for assisting vulnerable communities. Councillor Myeni commended the economic impact hosting the event in the City brings, and the community upliftment by the church.

"We are pleased that this celebration attracted more than 5 000 people to the City and this bodes well for our economy, particularly the tourism and hospitality industry. We want to convey our gratitude to the Salvation Army for choosing Durban to celebrate this milestone. Durban has a good track record of hosting major events that attracts large crowds," she said.

She added: "Steeped in Christian values, the Salvation Army continues to lead by example as shown by their work when supporting the victims of disasters that have affected the City. We are grateful for your generous support during hard times." Law enforcement agencies ensured tough security measures were in place in and around the celebration venue. "Officials ensured every effort was made to minimise traffic congestion around the Albert Park precinct. Additional police personnel were deployed to maintain high visibility in this area to ensure the safety of congregants," Councillor Myeni said.



CITY'S HIV/AIDS RESPONSE LAUDED

ETHEKWINI Municipality's efforts to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS was recognised at the Fast Track Cities Conference in Amsterdam on 24 September. The City received an award for its efforts in responding to the challenge of HIV and AIDS by implementing impactful programmes focusing on preventing new infections among the youth and enrolling those who have tested HIV positive on treatment.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Municipality was eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda. He led the City's delegation for the five-day conference.

Mayor Kaunda said he was humbled by the gesture and was confident that it would inspire and encourage the City to do more to reduce the spread of the virus.

"We want to thank the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the city of Amsterdam and other partners for continuing to support the



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global effort in the fight against HIV, TB, and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)," said Mayor Kaunda.

He said as the second biggest economy in South Africa, eThekweni Metropolitan has the highest number of HIV and AIDS infections. Of the more than 600 000 people living with HIV/AIDS, over 500 000 are on anti-retroviral treatment.

"South Africa continues to run the biggest HIV/AIDS treatment programme in the world, and we are beginning to see the positive impact of this programme as people are living longer. We have also significantly reduced the

mother to child transmission of HIV," he added.

The Mayor attributed this success to the seriousness with which the South African government has treated HIV/AIDS.

Mayor Kaunda conveyed his gratitude to all stakeholders who are working with the City to curb the spread of TB and HIV. He said the award belongs to all members of the District AIDS Council because it was through a collective effort that the City was making progress in turning the tide against HIV.

The bright side of Durban's CBD Evolution

RESEARCH by The Durban Edge reveals a transformative evolution in Durban's Central Business District (CBD). While the CBD has long been integral to Durban's economy, recent developments shine a spotlight on uMhlanga and other emerging areas within the City. Despite uMhlanga's growing demand for office space, it's crucial to emphasise that Durban's CBD remains a vital contributor to job creation within eThekweni. Spatial Economic Activity data from SARS shows that Durban's CBD hosts significantly more Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs and firms compared to uMhlanga. In 2022, Durban's CBD had 381 611 FTE jobs and 10 825 firms, while

uMhlanga had 110 490 FTE jobs and 4 699 firms. This pattern has persisted since 2014, with Durban's CBD consistently surpassing uMhlanga in job creation. Durban is indeed undergoing a transformation in its CBD, with uMhlanga emerging as a vibrant commercial hub. The growing demand for office space, low vacancy rates, and rapid property growth in uMhlanga reflect its increasing appeal to businesses. However, Durban's CBD remains essential for job creation, boasting more firms and jobs per firm. The City's ongoing efforts to revitalise the inner city, including demolishing problematic structures and launching exciting projects,

will further contribute to its resurgence. However, one cannot deny uMhlanga's growing economic importance, evident in the rising demand for office space. South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) data shows that despite the CBD having more office space, uMhlanga experienced an impressive 83% growth from 2012 to 2022, surpassing the CBD's 6% growth. uMhlanga consistently maintains a lower office vacancy rate than Durban's CBD. Over the past decade, uMhlanga's rate remained below 10%, while the CBD hovered around 20%. This reflects uMhlanga's attractiveness to businesses.

DEBT RELIEF PROGRAMME REINSTATED

ETHEKWINI Municipality is once again extending a helping hand by reinstating its Debt Relief Programme. The programme, previously approved and implemented from December 2022 to February 2023, comes with specific conditions aimed at easing the financial burden on the Municipality's valued customers. The renewed relief programme will be effective from 1 October 2023 and will be open for three months.

The reinstated programme will exclude government and parastatal entities. Instead, it will focus on assisting individuals and businesses that find themselves in financial distress. To be eligible for this relief, customers must have outstanding debts for a minimum of ninety (90) days.

Under this new programme, qualifying residents can sign up for a payment arrangement with a down payment requirement of 5% for residential customers and 10% for non-residential customers, excluding government departments and institutions. One of the standout features of this programme is the write-off of accumulated interest once a payment arrangement has been established. However, it is important to note that all written-off interest will be reinstated in the event of a customer defaulting on the payment plan.

The programme allows for the settlement of the outstanding debt over a maximum period of 36 months.

The programme extends a helping hand to non-profit organisations including old age and disabled homes, mental hospitals, Early Childhood Development Centres, and others will be granted a substantial 50% capital debt write-off once they enter into a payment arrangement. This benefit is conditional on these organisations not falling into arrears within a period of 12 months after settling their debts.



DBF AND DFF HELP SMMES DEVELOP

TWO eThekweni Municipality SMME development initiatives, namely the Durban Business Fair (DBF) and Durban Fashion Fair (DFF), have been hailed for providing a platform for small businesses to grow and thrive.

The DBF and DFF were hosted successfully from 20 to 24 September at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre and Durban Exhibition Centre and attracted approximately 20 231 visitors. There were 609 exhibitors who showcased their businesses and products. The main highlight of the week-long empowerment activities was the hosting of the DBF Excellence Awards on 23 September. The awards incorporated the DFF Recognition Awards and Lion's Den Business Plan Competition Awards. A total of 23 businesses scooped up to R50 000 each in business support prizes.

The DBF Excellence Awards had five categories. The DBF Excellence Award was won by Afya Food while Eagle



Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli embodied the ethos of buying local when he fought products from an exhibitor at the Durban Fashion Fair.

Eye Clothing took the Youth-Owned Business Award. The Rural/Township-Based Award winner was Insika Interiors. Mrs HairFidance won in the Women-Owned Business Category while My Space Academy got the Long-Stand Special Recognition Award.

In the DFF Recognition Awards, Zamaswazi was named the Designer of the Year, Martin John Bespoke took the Fashion

Innovation Award. The Best Women's Collection was won by Eullue and the Best Men's Collection was Vyagor Louve.

The Best Collection of the Week was awarded to EYC Couture while Jigga was named the 2023 Emerging Designer.

During the week-long proceedings, many empowerment seminars and skills transfer activities were held.

FOOD SAFETY TRAINING FOR INFORMAL TRADERS

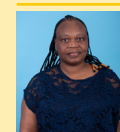


Informal food traders in Phoenix received training on health and safety measures from the City's Health Unit as part of an ongoing campaign.

INFORMAL food traders from Phoenix gained knowledge on food safety and hygiene through a workshop hosted by the City's Health Unit. EThekweni is home to many informal traders who have made a massive contribution to the City's economic growth. As part of an ongoing initiative aimed at promoting food safety and hygiene, the campaign strives to ensure that informal traders have the knowledge to adhere to safety regulations while expanding their businesses.

Senior Environmental Health Practitioner Noluthando Nala covered the fundamental requirements of operating a food business. She provided a comprehensive explanation of the five key elements to food safety. "Informal traders must understand that when handling food, they must follow these essential steps. These include thoroughly cooking food, maintaining proper hand hygiene, and separating raw and cooked food. During our inspections, we often find traders using utensils that are not suitable for their kitchens, such as wooden chopping boards. Today, they have gained a deeper understanding of hygiene requirements and the correct way to handle meat.

"Hebert Tembe, an informal trader, said he benefitted immensely from the workshop."



Chairperson: Community Services Committee
Cllr Zama Sokhabase

PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK UNANNOUNCED VISITS

AS part of the celebrations of Public Service Week, Chairperson of the Governance and Human Capital Committee Nkosenhle Madlala led unannounced visits to various public service sites in the City. September is Public Service Month. The visits, conducted under the theme of 'Ensuring a professional public service for quality service delivery' were aligned with the annual Thusong Service Centre Week. This week aims to promote efficient government information services through one-stop service centres.

During these visits, the focus was on engaging with the public and gathering feedback on their experiences with Municipal customer service



Chairperson of the Governance and Human Capital Committee Nkosenhle Madlala led unannounced visits to various public service sites in the City. Five teams visited 24 sites.

centres. There were five teams, each led by councillors, which saw 24 sites visited. These sites included Sizakala Centres, libraries, clinics, the Florence Mkhize Building Customer Service Centre, the Metro Police Charge Office, and the revenue contact centre.

The teams utilised a questionnaire to gather information from managers,

staff, and customers visiting the service centres. Councillor Madlala said previously, government services were segregated, but now their focus is on providing services that treat people with respect.

"Through these unannounced visits, our objective was to assess the delivery of services to communities and intervene where needed."

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