

## MAYOR XABA LAUNCHES SPRING CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN



**eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba launched the Spring Clean-Up Campaign on 6 September on David Webster Street in the central business district.**

**E**THEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba has encouraged communities to work with the City to keep their surroundings clean. This will help make Durban an attractive tourism destination. Speaking at the Spring Clean-Up Campaign launch on David Webster Street in the central business district on 6 September, Mayor Xaba said there has been noticeable improvement in cleanliness in the City. This has been through the dedication of the Cleansing

and Solid Waste Unit staff and other initiatives which include the Inner-City Regeneration Programme and Operation Good Hope.

He emphasised that cleaning the City required a collective effort. "We call upon all our social partners including business, civil society and communities to play their part because keeping the City clean is a collective responsibility," elaborated Mayor Xaba.

The cleaning campaign aims to bring about behavioural

change among residents and businesses regarding proper waste disposal.

Mayor Xaba added that the launch of the campaign was a catalyst for a city-wide clean-up programme that will take place during September, nationally commemorated as Clean-up Month, and beyond. The campaign aims to promote a clean and healthy environment for eThekweni communities. Speaking of mid and long-term programmes to address

challenges in the inner-city, Mayor Xaba said: "Currently we are implementing plans to deal with problem buildings and improving the safety of residents. The Metro Police has been tasked to deal decisively with crime and grime in the City. We have also made it clear that they must declare zero tolerance on those who are flouting our by-laws."

He committed that the City leadership will continue to work diligently to ensure that the City remains clean.

# ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY RELEASES 34 PROPERTIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

ETHEKWINI Municipality has opened approximately 34 leasing opportunities for re-development and development of its properties.

These properties are not required to provide a basic Municipal service. The list includes three key properties on the beachfront, namely the properties where Mini Town, The Joint, and California Dreaming once stood.

Thapelo Mmusinyane, Head of Real Estate said this is part of the Municipality's Proactive Land Release Strategy which seeks to ensure that the Municipality does not have to wait for an application to be submitted in order to alienate surplus land.

"The Municipality is now proactive in that process thus avoiding a scenario where Municipal land, which is not required for Municipal purposes, is occupied illegally

and development opportunities are lost," he explained.

"This assists the Municipality to achieve its developmental objectives and stimulate economic activity through the use of its surplus properties and also enables its residents to gain equitable access to land as prescribed by section 25(5) of the Constitution."

Mmusinyane said there are eight properties with either leases that expired or about to expire and 26 new properties altogether. The lease opportunities on offer includes three properties on the beachfront which needs to be redeveloped or refurbished, vacant land portions across the City with development potential for residential, commercial, industrial, base telecommunications stations (cellular masts), and mixed-use developments.

He said this release opens

business opportunities for both established developers and emerging first-time developers.

Mmusinyane said the total extent covered by properties which have been issued for leasing opportunities amounts to 123 284 m<sup>2</sup>. These leasing opportunities allows the Municipality to drive the development of priority development corridors, unlocking certain properties in terms of value and economic activity and attracting investment into the Municipality. It also opens up the market for new entrants to enable the public to gain access to land on an equitable basis.

The primary lease term ranges between a period of five to 50 years. It is dependent on the type of development and alignment with the Municipality' Spatial Development Framework and

the Spatial Planning and Land use Management Act read together with the eThekweni Municipal: Planning and Land Use By-Law (2016). The minimum / reserve rental amount per month ranges from the lowest of R2 916.67 up to R315 000 being the highest.

The request for proposal (RFP) documents will be issued on 13 September 2024 with submissions closing on 13 December 2024 at 11am.

There will be two non-compulsory briefing sessions on 26 September 2024 and 14 November 2024 which will be attended by funding institutions who will clarify their funding requirements and consideration.

RFP documents are accessible from the Municipal website on <https://www.durban.gov.za/pages/business/procurement>

## BUILDING WRAPS TO AID DERELICT BUILDING OWNERS

THE City calls on owners of problem buildings to consider doing an advertising wrap around their buildings to raise funds to renovate their properties.

The owner of Ronda Vista building on Mahatma Gandhi Road recently took the decision to engage the City and wrap the property. Wrapping a building is an innovative means of raising funds as it allows the owner to offer an advertising opportunity while receiving funds that will be used for renovation and payment of outstanding Municipal bills.

While the building wrap does not immediately improve the derelict building itself, it offers a better street outlook until the building is refurbished. The owner of the property engages with an advertising agency for the

building wrap and signs a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City that stipulates that funds received from the advertising wrap will be used for renovations and to pay off any Municipal debt related to the property.

Other advantages of engaging the Problem Buildings Division include the fast tracking of applications and a 50 percent reduction in application fees. There is also an urban development zone incentive offered to owners wanting to refurbish their buildings.

If property owners fail to engage the City or comply when notices are issued, the City has a right to institute court action, implement a rates code change which is 22 times the normal rates, and could eventually lead to expropriation.



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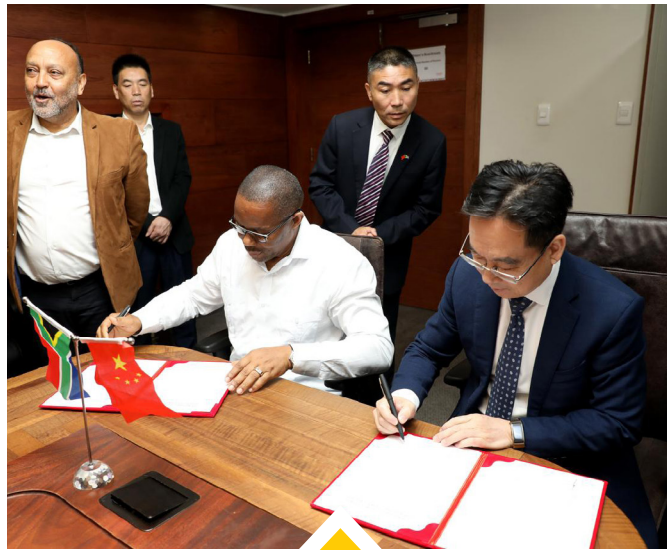


# CITY SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH CHINA

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed a Chinese delegation to the City as part of strengthening relationships with other countries. They signed a 'Friendly Exchange City Relationship Agreement' to establish more practical cooperation projects with South Africa.

Mayor Xaba said: "On behalf of the people of eThekweni, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you. Your presence here today marks the beginning of what will be a lasting and fruitful friendship between our two cities. We look forward to strengthening our connection with Ningde, a city that shares our values of innovation, resilience, and cultural richness."

He said the meeting signalled cooperation that will see the two cities working together in areas such as trade, investment in green energy, tourism, education, and environmental sustainability. "We are excited about the possibilities that this partnership holds, and



**EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and Deputy Mayor of Ningde Municipal People's Government and the Chairman of Ningde Overseas Friendship Association Mao Zuosong signed a 'Friendly Exchange City Relationship Agreement' at the Durban City Hall on 6 September.**

we are committed to ensuring that it will bring tangible benefits to both Durban and Ningde" added Mayor Xaba. He said like Durban, Ningde is a dynamic city located in the north eastern part of Fujian

Province, China.

In terms of industry, Ningde has attracted several leading enterprises such as CATL, New Energy Technology, Qingtuo Group, SAIC Group, and Southeast Copper.

# SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT PLANNED FOR WENTWORTH

ETHEKWINI Municipality has taken a significant step towards addressing the housing needs in Wentworth by approving a lease for a 2.14-hectare property to be used for social housing. Valued at R8.64 million, the property will be leased to a Social Housing Institution (SHI) at a discounted rate. This project aims to provide affordable housing to residents, contributing to the broader goal of improving access to housing in the region.

The lease, which will be suspended during the planning and construction phases, is part of a larger effort by the Municipality

to address the housing shortage while ensuring that development is completed efficiently. The decision was made after considering both the market value of the asset and the potential economic and community benefits the project will bring.

In the event that the SHI seeks to change the current use of the property from social housing to a commercial venture, strict regulations have been put in place. The SHI must first seek approval from the Head of Human Settlements and/or the Head of Development Planning. The request will then be presented to Council for review, ensuring transparency and

accountability in the decision-making process.

To maintain the integrity of the social housing initiative, the Head of Human Settlements will be responsible for tracking any conversions from social housing to commercial use. Quarterly reports will be submitted to the Municipal Council, ensuring that the project continues to serve its intended purpose of providing affordable housing.

This social housing development is a testament to eThekweni Municipality's commitment to addressing the housing needs of its residents while promoting sustainable urban development.

## Automated tender management tool introduced

ETHEKWINI Municipality will be introducing a digital solution to tender management in the near future. The new tender management portal will allow all tenders to be submitted online on a single digital platform. The portal allows for the automation of the tender opening register, compliance verifications and scheduling of bid committee meetings, objections and complaints processes. The issuance of letters will be automatic, promoting a quick turnaround, reduce fraud risk in the conclusion of tenders and allow for the real time support for bidders. A clear advantage of the system is that it will ensure regulatory compliance and reduce the audit findings from the manual fragmented process. All vendors must be registered on CSD in order to register on the eThekweni Supplier Portal and the self service system in order to bid on the online platform.

Vendors already registered on the supplier portal of eThekweni must follow this process to register on the Supplier Self-Service System (SSS) by emailing [Supplier.Selfservice@durban.gov.za](mailto:Supplier.Selfservice@durban.gov.za) to ensure their readiness to submit tenders via the online platform on SSS using the following link: <https://hfq.durban.gov.za/jde/EIMenu.maf>

Vendors who are not yet registered on the supplier portal must first register on the supplier portal using the following link and thereafter register on the self service system as noted above;

Register on the eThekweni Supplier Portal on [www.ethekwinisupplierportal.durban.gov.za](http://www.ethekwinisupplierportal.durban.gov.za)



# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR

THE City's Health Unit, under the Pollution Control and Risk Management Division, celebrated the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies at the Durban Natural Science Museum. Celebrated under the theme 'Invest in Clean Air Now,' the event aimed to emphasise international efforts to enhance air quality and mitigate air pollution which poses a significant environmental health risk, causes economic losses, and diminishes agricultural productivity. The event, which was attended by students from Zwelibanzi High School in uMlazi, also unveiled the air quality management stand and the official handover of the National Air Quality Indicator Project by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment.

Phathu Raphaelalani, Senior Manager for Pollution Control in the City, highlighted the educational value and



**Acting Deputy Head of Pollution Control and Risk Management Zandile Shange, Durban Natural Science Museum's Dr. Leigh Richards and Ward 86 Councillor Sizwe Mthethwa unveiling the air quality management stand.**

importance of the new stand. "We are excited as a City to have this stand in one of our museums. We appreciate the efforts from our partners both internally and from the

province.

The City currently operates 15 air monitoring stations and we are pleased that the City is leading in air monitoring. We are committed to

collaborating with the public and other stakeholders to reduce air pollution through collective investments of time, resources, and efforts," said Raphaelalani.

The stand will allow museum visitors, including school groups and the public, to observe real-time air quality data.

Dr. Leigh Richards from the Durban Natural Science Museum noted that the museum received over 44 000 visitors last year, with approximately 32 000 being school children. "This exhibit will share important knowledge about air quality in our City with visitors. It aims to empower sustainable air quality management while emphasising the importance of clean air in our lives,"

Richards said.

A presentation on air quality management was also conducted for students, enhancing their understanding of the critical issue of air pollution.

## THREE-YEAR MOU TO STRENGTHEN ETHEKWINI'S DECENTRALISED WASTEWATER TREATMENT

THE CITY is set to enhance its innovative approach to wastewater management through a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA). This agreement will further support the implementation of decentralised wastewater treatment solutions (DEWATS) and introduce off-grid sanitation systems across the Municipality. This partnership positions eThekweni as a leader in sustainable and advanced wastewater treatment, showcasing the City's commitment to environmental stewardship. The collaboration builds on

a successful relationship between the eThekweni Water and Sanitation Unit and BORDA, which began in 2006. Over the years, this partnership has resulted in significant progress, from feasibility studies to full-scale implementation of DEWATS in subsidised housing projects. These efforts have played a vital role in addressing sanitation backlogs, improving the quality of life for residents.

A key highlight of this MOU is that it carries no financial or legal burden for the Municipality, making it a strategic and cost-effective initiative. The focus remains on delivering practical, sustainable wastewater treatment solutions.

## ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DURBAN'S WATER CHALLENGES

ETHEKWINI Municipality's Durban EDGE has launched a survey to evaluate the economic implications of Durban's current water challenges. This important survey seeks to gather insights on how water management and infrastructure developments are affecting local businesses, employment, and economic growth in the region. The EDGE survey is designed to pinpoint areas where strategic intervention can yield the greatest benefits. The findings will guide the Municipality in prioritising investments in water infrastructure, support initiatives, and economic development programmes. The survey results will

also help shape long-term strategies to enhance Durban's resilience and ensure sustained economic growth.

The Municipality encourages all relevant stakeholders to participate in the EDGE survey, as feedback is essential in shaping effective policies and interventions. The survey results will be shared publicly, promoting transparency, and encouraging community involvement in the decision-making process.

Please click to take the survey : <https://forms.office.com/r/r25UTP2bcG?origin=IprLink>

The survey closes on 13 September 2024. For further enquiries email Siphesihle. Thusl@durban.gov.za

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