

## ETHEKWINI LEADERSHIP AND UMNGENI-UTHUKELA WATER DEVISE ROAD MAP TO RESOLVE WATER ISSUE

**E**THEKWINI Municipality's leadership, working with uMngeni-uThukela Water (UUW), remains committed to finding an urgent solution to the water supply woes affecting the City. This comes as a result of reduced water volumes following the upsurge of algae in raw water.

On 1 September, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele, and UUW management addressed the media on the current state of water supply and interventions in place to bring the situation to normalcy.

The presence of algae has resulted in the reduction of water volumes from UUW's Durban Heights Water Treatment Works from 590 megalitres per day to an average of 380 megalitres per day. In an effort to suppress the spread of algae, the UUW continues to treat raw water at the point of abstraction at the Nagle Dam. This is being done in order to decrease the concentration of algae before it reaches the Durban Heights Water Treatment Works. The Water Board is also using shaft pumps to draw water from the Inanda Dam which



**eThekweni Municipality leadership together with uMngeni-uThukela Water management held a media briefing on 1 September to provide an update on the interventions to deal with the upsurge of algae which has resulted in the reduction of treated water to the City's northern areas.**

it mixes to dilute the algae at the Durban Heights Water Treatment Works.

Concerted efforts to treat water with added dosages of chemicals continue at the Durban Heights Water Treatment Plant. The result has been that plant has now vastly improved.

Currently, this plant is supplying areas in the north with one pipeline, an 800-diameter line, while the 1050 diameter pipeline remains offline until it reaches sufficient water levels. "Our technical team has as-

sured us that they expect the situation to return to normalcy after five to seven days. We appeal to residents who are already receiving water to reduce their consumption to help the system recover fully," said Mayor Xaba.

The Mayor said the reduction of bulk water from UUW Durban Heights Treatment Works was due to the upsurge of algae which put a further strain on the City, which is already faced with a challenge of demand outpacing available supply. As a short-term

intervention, water tankers will continue to supply water to affected customers until the system fully recovers.

The City is procuring an additional 100 water tankers expected to be delivered by December. The pipeline replacement programme will commence following the Council approval of the unbundling of a R30 million budget. To address water challenges, a long-term plan is the construction of the Umkhomazi Water Project which is already underway.

## CITY PREPARES TO AUCTION 172 VEHICLES AND OTHER GOODS

ETHEKWINI Municipality is preparing to host its 12th online auction in partnership with Auction Specialist. Around 172 vehicles, including light motor vehicles, light delivery vehicles, trucks and various goods

which are no longer being used by the City will be auctioned. Interested parties are invited to participate, particularly previously disadvantaged individuals. Viewing of the items will take place on 2 to 4 September with registration closing

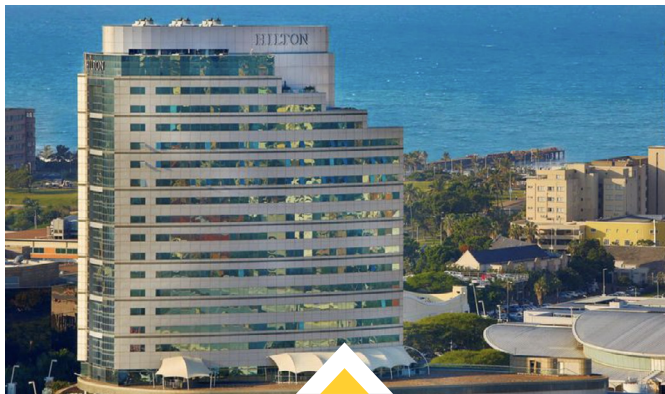
on 4 September at 6pm. Viewing of the vehicles and goods will take place at Electron Road, Springfield. The auction will open for bidding on 5 September at 8am for goods and vehicles. Bidding for vehicles will continue until

6 September while bidding for goods will take place only on 5 September. The minimum requirement to participate in the auction is a refundable deposit of R5000 for goods and R10 000 per vehicle.

# RE-OPENING OF HILTON HOTEL DURBAN

ETHEKWINI Municipality welcomes the re-opening of the Hilton Hotel Durban which will significantly benefit the City's tourism economy. The re-opening is timely as it comes at the start of Tourism Month which is celebrated annually in September. The hotel's re-opening will also be adding to the luxury executive accommodation inventory of Durban.

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said the phased re-opening of the hotel will also strategically amplify the City's business case when bidding to host national and international conferences. "Apart from enhancing the tourism experience for visitors in the City, the re-opening of the hotel will contribute immensely to job creation. The Hilton Hotel is also a great added advantage for the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC), which is situated near the hotel. When the Durban ICC conducts



The re-opening of the Hilton Hotel Durban has been welcomed by City officials.

their product promotion, it will be characterised by the easy accessibility to prestigious accommodation which further instils business travel confidence," he said. Mayor Xaba said the convenient accessibility is also an advantage for dignitaries and high security risk patrons as there is no long-distance travel as all business travel purpose facilities are within easy reach.

"We are excited that our drive to attract investment in the City, through our Inner-City Regeneration Programme, is beginning to yield positive results," he added. The hotel is situated in a prime location of the City's business tourism Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions precinct. This is where the Durban ICC and the Durban Exhibition Centre are conveniently housed.

## R13.6 MILLION APPROVED FOR NEW SAKHITHEMBA HOMELESS FACILITY

TO enhance support for the homeless community, Council has approved the reallocation of R13.6 million from the 2024/2025 capital budget to establish the Sakhithemba Homeless Facility in Illovo.

This decision, made on 29 August, reflects a strategic shift from the previously planned Block AK project site in Durban's CBD, following recommendations from the Inner-City Regeneration Committee.

The new facility will address the pressing need for expanded homeless accommodation. Designed to provide 400 beds, Sakhithemba Home will offer comprehensive services including health screenings, feeding programmes, social work support, and skills development. The facility aims to support short-term stays while facilitating family reunification efforts. Project Implementation Plan:

- Design and Planning: Set to be completed by December 2024.
- Construction Start: Scheduled for January 2025.
- Completion and Operational Readiness: Expected by December 2025.

The approved budget will cover various stages of construction, including site preparation, building, and equipping the facility. This investment is crucial for developing a centre that not only provides immediate accommodation but also long-term support for those in need. There will also be informational meetings held for residents in Illovo and neighbouring areas to inform residents about the project's scope and benefits. Regular updates will be provided through local media and newsletters.

# ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY WRITES OFF DEBTS OF DECEASED ESTATE

IN an unprecedented move to provide relief to beneficiaries of deceased and insolvent estates, eThekwini Municipality Council will be writing off debts of properties to the value of R1 million that are over 24 months.

This ground-breaking decision was adopted by Council on 29 August and is in line with the Municipal Financial Management Act and the eThekwini Municipality Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy.

Currently, the debt owed by deceased estates where the executors were not appointed is estimated at over R900 million. However, the Council resolved to limit the debt

relief package to properties with the value not exceeding R1 million.

The Council further resolved that the write off will take place under the following conditions:

- The deceased and insolvent estate must be for residential household, not business;
- Debt involved to be older than 24 months;
- Availability of surviving beneficiary with a legal title to represent the estate to avoid re-emergence of debt.

In instances where the next of kin is a minor or indigent, the Council approved that the In-

digent Policy will be applied. EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba has described the decision as a step in the right direction to provide relief to indigent households and to improve the City's revenue collection.

"This move will allow those who are occupying property with the legal title to come forward and make the necessary payment arrangement with the City.

The Mayor has urged beneficiaries or next of kin of deceased estates to take advantage of this opportunity by approaching the Municipality to make payment arrangements.



# CATO RIDGE AGRIPARK REVAMP UNLOCKS POTENTIAL

THE City's Economic Development and Planning Committee has given the green light to reprioritise over R2 million to fund the refurbishment of chicken houses at the Cato Ridge AgriPark. This is part of the implementation of the City's Agribusiness Masterplan adopted by Council in 2020. This is a 10-year strategic plan that seeks to unlock new investment in the Agribusiness value-chain of no less than R1 billion.

The recommendation was accepted during the Committee meeting held on 22 August at the Durban City Hall Council Chamber and was approved by the Executive Committee on 27 August. It was given the final go ahead by Full Council on 29 August.

Presenting to the committee, Agri-Business Senior Manager for Business Development and Production Nkululeko Hlongwane said an assessment indicated the need to improve the

production capacity and efficiency of the existing chicken production houses. "This will ensure that each production unit can be able to accommodate 25 000 broiler flock per cycle."

She added that this improvement will facilitate the Cato Ridge AgriPark Incubator Farm to realise its commercial potential by yielding a minimum of 250 000 broiler chickens per cycle being produced in the farm. This translates to an estimated income of R102 million per annum that could be generated by the farm.

Economic Development and Planning Committee Chairperson Councillor Thembo Ntuli said:

"This committee's key objective is to facilitate inclusive economic development, job creation, and to drive the radical economic transformation agenda."

He said the Cato Ridge AgriPark Incubator broiler chicken production has



**As part of government's efforts to fight the scourge of job losses and unemployment, eThekweni Municipality bought the Cato Ridge Chicken Farm near Hammarsdale. The project falls under Councillor Thembo Ntuli's Cluster (pictured).**



unlocked commercial economic opportunities for local agriSMMEs to participate in the commercial production of broiler chicken

and the meat value chain. There are seven businesses occupying Cato Ridge chicken houses which have created about 17 long-term jobs.

## COUNCIL ACCELERATES METER READING TRANSFER TO IMPROVE BILLING ACCURACY

ETHEKWINI City Manager Musa Mbhele has been directed to expedite the implementation of a crucial Council decision regarding the migration of meter reading functions. This is a move seen as essential to improving billing accuracy and stabilising the City's financial health. This directive, taken at Council on 29 August, comes after significant delays in executing the 2020 Council resolution aimed at consolidating the Electricity and Water and Sanitation Meter Reading Departments under the Finance Cluster. The 2020 resolution, designed to streamline operations and ensure accurate billing,

mandated the transfer of meter reading responsibilities to the Finance Cluster, which is tasked with maintaining precise accounts in line with the Municipality's Credit Control and Debt Collection By-Law and related policies. The process was originally scheduled for completion by June 2021, with the goal of reducing estimated billing and enhancing the overall billing system.

However, the migration has faced internal challenges that have stalled progress.

These delays have contributed to several ongoing issues, including increasing the Municipality's debtors' book and adversely affecting collection rates. In response,

the City Manager has been tasked with expediting the implementation of the Council's decision.

A Service Level Agreement will be established between the Trading Services and the Finance Cluster, outlining the terms and conditions of the migration process.

This agreement is expected to clarify the responsibilities of each department and set clear timelines for the completion of the transfer.

The execution of this migration process is deemed crucial. It is expected to significantly improve billing accuracy, boost customer satisfaction, and ensure the financial stability of eThekweni.

## FACILITY UPGRADES APPROVED

TO enhance the City's infrastructure, Council has approved the reprioritisation of the 2024/2025 capital budget to address urgent maintenance needs and upgrades for key facilities. This will also focus on the rehabilitating and upgrading of the Kings Park Pool along with other vital projects that have experienced budget shortfalls.

Due to ageing infrastructure and budget constraints, many facilities within the Parks, Recreation, and Culture (PRC) Unit have deteriorated. The approval allows for the allocation of R42.9 million specifically for the rehabilitation of Kings Park Pool and other key facilities.



## REGISTER NOW TO EXHIBIT AT THE UPCOMING SOUTH REGIONAL DURBAN BUSINESS FAIR



TO revitalise township economies, eThekweni Municipality is reviving the Regional Durban Business Fairs (DBF). The Regional DBF have been hailed for their important role of showcasing area-based business products, empowering entrepreneurs with skills and availing networking opportunities.

The exhibitor registration for the South Regional DBF is now open. The fair will take place from 25 to 27 October

at the KwaMnyandu Shopping Centre.

To book to showcase at this signature business exhibition, register before the deadline of 30 September 2024 as space is limited.

Find the registration form on the following link: <https://bit.ly/SouthForm>, or email [admin@lomes.co.za](mailto:admin@lomes.co.za) and request a form. Alternatively, registration forms can be collected from the security desk at the Embassy Building, 199 Anton

Lembede Street. You can also download the forms from the eThekweni Municipality website [www.durban.gov.za](http://www.durban.gov.za) browse under government tab and scroll down to the Durban Business Fair sub-tab.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) are pillars of the City's economy and drive job creation.

"Unlocking rural and township economic growth remains an integral part of our strategy to promote inclusive economic growth and create more jobs. It is therefore practical to create and coordinate programmes that promote entrepreneurship and small business growth to upscale the revitalisation of rural and township economies."

For more information, the business community can call 031 266 9938.

## YOUTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE OPEN

ETHEKWINI Municipality has once again partnered with Innovate Durban to launch the Youth Innovation Challenge (YIC) 2024. This is an exciting opportunity for young innovators to address real-world challenges and transform their ideas into successful start-ups. Powered by SAP, this initiative invites the youth of Durban to take on pressing issues across various sectors and compete for substantial prizes.

This year, the YIC focuses on critical challenges in five key areas:

- **Climate Change:** Addressing water scarcity and drought
- **Manufacturing and Engineering:** Tackling the problem of microplastics
- **Urban Dwelling:** Improving infrastructure in urban areas
- **Health and Science:** Combating communicable diseases
- **Disaster Management:** Enhancing emergency preparedness.

Participants have an opportunity to become a problem solver with innovative solutions and connect with like-minded young people eager to make a difference.

To apply, you must be between 18 and 35 years of age and be a resident of eThekweni. You can enter as an individual or a team. Teams should consist of 5 and 6 members, with at least two female participants and at least one STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) graduate or final-year student.

Applications are open now and interested participants can apply by completing the form available by clicking <https://foras.office.com/7nc2jhrzfs>.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN IN TOURISM

TO close Women's Month with a bang, Durban Tourism hosted a Women in Tourism engagement on 29 August at The Silokazis in Inanda.

The event was held under the theme '30 Years into Woman Power' and aimed to uncover strategies to address the challenges women face in the tourism industry while facilitating access to vital business resources and opportunities. The event featured a dynamic panel discussion with prominent female leaders in tourism.

Durban Tourism Deputy Head Winile Mntungwa shared insights on promoting tourism in a challenging urban environment, showcasing how her role has fostered the success



**Durban Tourism hosted the Women in Tourism engagement under the theme '30 Years into Woman Power'. The event discussed challenges women in tourism face as well as provided networking opportunities.**

of women in the sector. The discussions reinforced the significance of balancing

social dynamics to improve power relations and branding for women.

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

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