

ETHEKWINI WORKS WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO ROOT OUT FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

PREVENTING the spread of fraud and corruption requires a collaborative effort of many stakeholders in order to cultivate a culture of good governance and integrity. This sentiment was shared by several stakeholders who attended the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Seminar held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 14 November. The progress made by the City to address the backlog of disciplinary cases of implicated employees as well as blacklisting companies involved in corruption was also highlighted during the seminar which was spearheaded by the City Integrity and Investigations Unit (CIIU).

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said the Municipality is committed to building a capable, honest, and transparent administration. "We will achieve this by regularly conducting lifestyle audits on public servants who occupy strategic positions in the City



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba (inset) and Head of the City Integrity and Investigations Unit Jimmy Ngcobo were among the delegates that attended the fraud and corruption seminar at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre.

and preventing Municipal or state employees from doing business with the City."

He said they are also strengthening the CIIU to conduct its work without fear, favour, or prejudice.

Head of CIIU Jimmy Ngcobo said working with law enforcement stakeholders has yielded positive results. He said in the first quarter

of the 2024/2025 financial year (July to September) 108 investigations were finalised, 53 infrastructure theft cases were completed, and 147 service delivery complaints were resolved. During this period, four entities and their directors were blacklisted and prevented from doing business with the City, with 31 internal and external anti-

fraud and corruption trainings undertaken. The City also has 26 criminal cases that are currently active with law enforcement agencies, with their finalisation imminent. Ngcobo said 51 employees have also been dismissed who were implicated in fraudulent activities while 90 employees resigned while investigations were in progress.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ARRESTED FOR ASPHALT TAR THEFT



A Municipal truck and equipment recovered from six employees who were caught stealing asphalt tar in Inanda.

SIX Municipal employees were arrested for the theft of asphalt tar in Inanda on 14 November. They were found transporting the asphalt tar and failed to produce a job card to explain why and where they were transporting it to. The employees, who are from the Roads and Stormwater Maintenance Department, appeared in court on 15 November.

Forensic Investigators from the City Integrity and Investigations Unit (CIIU) together with the Metro Police received a tip off and pursued the employees. Head of the CIIU Jimmy Ngcobo said their arrest shows that the City means business in rooting out corruption. The public can report fraud and corruption by calling 0800 20 20 20 or email ombuds@durban.gov.za

YOUTH-FOCUSED GROWTH PROPELS ETHEKWINI TO THE TOP IN Q3 2024

ETHEKWINI Municipality has firmly established itself as a leader in employment growth for the third quarter of 2024, solidifying its reputation as a City on an upward trajectory. According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) released by Statistics South Africa, eThekweni achieved an impressive milestone, adding 69 000 jobs in Q3 alone and 102 000 year-on-year. This remarkable performance positions the City as a stand-out leader in South Africa's economic recovery, outpacing all other major metropolitan areas.

Young people have been at the heart of eThekweni's success story, contributing 67% of the total job gains for Q3. More than 46 000 positions were filled by the youth, with the 30-year-old age group alone securing 14 239 jobs. These outcomes

reflect the success of targeted programmes designed to empower young people and facilitate their integration into the workforce.

Significant progress has also been made in reducing youth unemployment, which dropped from 39% in Q3 2023 to 31% in Q3 2024. While challenges persist, these figures highlight the City's strides in creating meaningful opportunities for its younger population.

eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele reflected on this success with optimism, stating: "These figures reflect the resilience and commitment of our City to fostering a robust economic environment. With increasing business confidence and the highest employment growth among metros, eThekweni is proving itself as a hub of opportunity and innovation."

The QLFS data highlights eThekweni's extraordinary performance compared to other major metros. Tshwane managed to add 41 556 jobs, while Cape Town saw a modest gain of 6 447. In stark contrast, eThekweni's robust job growth dwarfed these figures, while other metros, including Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni, experienced significant losses, with Johannesburg shedding a staggering 115 930 jobs.

This consistent upward trend reflects eThekweni's capacity to adapt and thrive amid socio-economic challenges. Employment in the City has steadily risen throughout the year, achieving cumulative growth of 4.6% across the first three quarters of 2024.

Several key sectors fuelled eThekweni's job growth during the quarter. The wholesale and retail trade sector led the

charge, adding 45 503 jobs, while community services contributed 37 184 new positions. Construction and financial intermediation also posted significant gains, underscoring the City's diverse economic base.

Economic indicators further affirm eThekweni's upward momentum. The business confidence index climbed to an encouraging 63 points, demonstrating renewed investor trust. Meanwhile, approved building plans surged by 47%, reflecting a rise in development activity and sustained investor confidence.

eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele emphasised the strategic effort behind these achievements: "The increase in business confidence and investments is not accidental—it is the result of deliberate strategies to make eThekweni an attractive destination for businesses."

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY AHEAD OF THE FESTIVE SEASON

ADDRESSING homelessness ahead of the festive season and beyond remains a priority for the City. A plea to not treat all homeless people as criminals was made by the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) and the Safer Cities Unit during the Inner-city Regeneration Programme Towards an Improved Enforcement Approach on Homelessness in eThekweni. Safer Cities Manager Nomusa Shembe said this strategic innovation and initiative seeks to define and find agreement based on the context of homelessness in line with various legal and other mandates of local government and possible implications thereof. "It also aims to unpack current challenges and gaps and identify opportunities to improve an enforcement approach. We are also working



The Municipal Institute of Learning and the Safer Cities Unit united to discuss the issue of homelessness and propose possible sustainable solutions.

to analyse existing policies, practices, legislation, and implications for the management and enforcement of the homeless," she said.

Shembe said the workshop aimed to propose an innova-

tive rapid process plan and road map (Draft Action Plan) to addressing the current challenges on homelessness in the City.

"With an approximately 16 000 homeless people living in

eThekweni, the involvement of MILE, the Community Participation and Action Support Unit, and the Metro Police will play a significant role in reducing these numbers," said Shembe.

She said among the solutions are soup kitchens to provide meals for the homeless as well as mental and educational programmes coupled with law enforcement to reach the desired outcomes as the Municipality.

Abdul Domingo, Manager of Enforcement and Prosecution in the Development Planning Department said this initiative seeks to analyse existing policies, practices, legislation, and implications to the management and enforcement of the homeless in eThekweni.



BURST AQUEDUCT ON M19 HAS BEEN ISOLATED, REPAIRS UNDERWAY

A TEMPORARY repair has been completed on the central aqueduct (bulk pipeline) that burst on 17 November in the vicinity of the M19 near Reservoir Hills.

The burst central aqueduct resulted in water gushing and flooding informal settlements in the vicinity of the M19, affecting several families.

An assessment of the extent of the damage was done by teams in order to undertake the necessary repairs.

An investigation of what caused the burst will also be conducted.

The Municipality's emergency team also conducted an assessment of the affected settlements to

determine what assistance was required.

The City cautions the public against building on water pipelines.

Encroachment on pipeline servitudes is a risk to human life and property, should the pipes burst.

This also hampers the City's ability to undertake maintenance on its underground infrastructure.

The public must look out for marker poles painted in orange and yellow for bulk pipelines and blue only for reticulation pipelines.

It is important to get building plans approved by the Municipality.



Teams were on site to repair the central aqueduct which burst and flooded informal settlements in the vicinity of the M19 in Reservoir Hills.

KZN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE ENCOURAGES A JUST TRANSITION AMONG KZN MUNICIPALITIES



EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni speaking at the KZN Climate Change Conference.

ETHEKWINI Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni opened the KZN Climate Change Conference which took place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 14 and 15 November. The City, in partnership with the South African Local Government

Association (SALGA), hosted officials from various KZN municipalities for a stimulating discussion themed 'Navigating the Just Climate Transition – Implications for Local Government'. The conference aimed to capacitate local municipalities in the planning

and implementation of a just transition, which refers to a fair and equitable process of shifting from an unsustainable carbonised economy to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly one. This also involves considerations for people and their livelihoods, communities, and social and environmental equity, underpinned by a "leave no-one behind" principle.

Deputy Mayor Myeni said: "As a City, we fully support this initiative because if we are to build climate resilient cities, we must have a comprehensive and coordinated programme of action for all municipalities. These plans must provide a blueprint for how we build roads, houses, and other infrastructure that can withstand catastrophic

weather events."

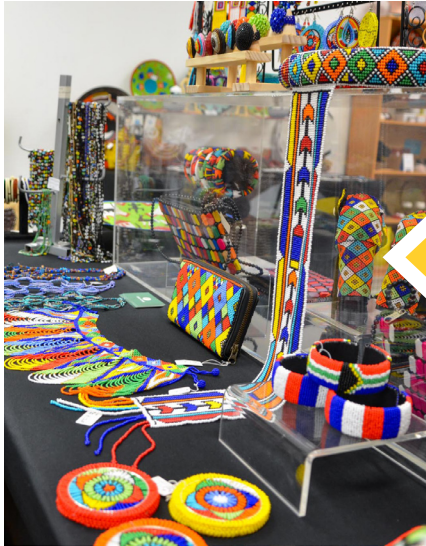
She said this meeting coincides with COP29 – a United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Members of the KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact celebrated the 10th anniversary of the partnership as part of the second day of proceedings by peer learning and sharing knowledge of what their municipalities are doing to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Compact is a climate change partnership of KZN municipalities, provincial government, and SALGA. The members support each other by reviewing policies, supporting events, and collaborating on implementing the Transformative River Management Programme in the province.



SUPPORT AND BUY LOCAL AT GALLERIA CRAFT MARKET



Discover a range of unique products at the Galleria Craft Market, open until 31 December 2024. Visit the store located near 'The Hub' at Galleria Mall to support local craftspeople and shop locally crafted goods.

Running from 3 October to 31 December, this vibrant market will help 10 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the arts and craft sector gain valuable market access at no cost to the vendors. Located next to The Hub at Galleria Mall, the market showcases a wide range of locally made products, including woven baskets, leather bags, African print fashion products, beaded customised candles, wellness items, and art from the Durban Art Gallery. The market operates Monday to Saturday from 9am to 7pm and Sundays and public holidays from 9am to 5pm. During the holiday season (13 to 22 December), special trading hours are from 9am to 9pm.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said the partnership aims to create an environment where SMEs can thrive.

Lindile Dlungwana is the founder of Gavutheju Business Enterprise in Verulam which specialises in African print bags, hats, and cards made from recycled materials.

She said the market has provided exposure for her business, allowing her to network.

If you interested in joining this initiative or want to register for the arts and craft database, contact Nondumiso Mhlongo on 031 311 4578/00 or email nondumiso.mhlongo@durban.gov.za

TO boost local entrepreneurship and to promote homegrown talent, eThekweni Municipality has partnered

with Galleria Mall to offer local businesses a platform to trade at the Galleria Craft Market.

YOUTH DEVELOP CUTTING EDGE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

THE 9th Innovation Festival kicked off amid much fanfare at the Coastlands Hotel Musgrave and the Innovate Durban Cato Manor Co-lab. Hosted by Innovate Durban and supported by eThekweni Municipality, the Innovation Festival is a two-day extravaganza bringing together thought leaders, businesses, entrepreneurs, academia, designers, government, and innovation stakeholders to explore the latest trends in innovation from both a global and local perspective.

The festival is a premier gathering, charting the way forward for the Fourth Industrial Revolution to take the City on an extraordinary journey on the latest innovations and transformative technologies



Young innovators gathered to showcase their innovative solutions to target challenges in various sectors of the City.

that shape the future.

Councillor Cedrick Ntshangase delivered the opening address where he emphasised

the significance of innovation in shaping the future of the City. He reaffirmed the City's commitment to supporting

the innovation ecosystem. Councillor Ntshangase said it is only through collaborative efforts such as the Innovation Festival, that innovation can develop and truly be a poverty-alleviating instrument for the people of eThekweni.

Shunnon Tulsiram, Head of the Economic Development Unit said it is inspiring and restores hope to see youth on the forefront of transforming eThekweni into an innovative City.

"Seeing them use cutting edge technologies as proposed solutions to the challenges we face as the City is encouraging. The future of eThekweni is in safe and capable hands; therefore the Municipality will continue to support this initiative," added Tulsiram.

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