

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS RELIEF FOR DISPLACED FLOOD VICTIMS



Minister of Human Settlements Thembi Simelane, MEC of Transport and Human Settlements Siboniso Duma and eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba during a visit to Impala Lodge, where they engaged with affected families and provided aid for their immediate needs.

In a continued effort to support residents devastated by recent floods, the Minister of Human Settlements Thembi Simelane, joined by KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Transport and Human Settlements Siboniso Duma and eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba visited various areas in eThekweni today, 4 March, to assess the extent of the damage and to provide human settlements interventions.

Minister Simelane's two-day visit to the province is aimed at emphasising government's commitment to assist affected communities by addressing their immediate and long-term housing needs.

Government is prioritising sustainable housing solutions to ensure the wellbeing of displaced residents.

As part of this commitment,

229 Lamontville flood victims will be permanently relocated to land owned by eThekweni Municipality in Hammarsdale. Interim services such as water and sanitation will be installed to ensure the sites are liveable. The visit comes after recent floods in the province as KZN has been experiencing heavy rains which resulted in several deaths.

Following the heavy rains, affected people from Lamontville were relocated to temporal decent accommodation while a permanent solution is sought. The National Department of Human Settlements and the Municipality are currently in search of suitable land to build houses for displaced families and those that are the most vulnerable during severe weather.

Speaking on the floods, Mayor Xaba said these catastrophic events have not only destroyed the City's infrastructure but have also resulted in the loss of life.

"It is important to indicate that flooding during heavy rains is related mainly to the size of the storm event and the capacity of the stormwater systems as well as the nature of the debris carried by the stormwater into the stormwater systems.

Therefore, we are constantly pleading with both residents and businesses to dispose of waste in designated areas."

He said in eThekweni Municipality, the stormwater systems are designed to cope with a one in 10-year storm event flow at critical points.

Therefore, the recurring floods need to be scrutinised

against the existing capacity of infrastructure built in terms of the required level of service to understand the risk related to exceedance of the built capacity, he said.

"Given the increasing frequency and magnitude of such catastrophic events caused by flooding in the eThekweni area, the City has embarked on many initiatives to reduce the risk of flooding and its impact on people's lives and infrastructure," said Mayor Xaba.

He said the City has embarked on many initiatives to reduce the risk of flooding.

Some of the proactive initiatives the City is implementing to reduce flooding risks include the following:

- The Sihlanzimvelo pilot programme where the City maintains approximately 500km of streams in high risk areas.
 - Revising the flood lines to incorporate the projected climate impact of a 15 percent increase in rainfall intensity.
- "We are confident that these interventions will further climate proof new development in the City.

Technical teams are currently being appointed to conduct a detailed assessment to identify possible solutions to government-developed properties already built in the 1:100 flood line," said Mayor Xaba.

He added: "The assessment will enable the City to produce stormwater management plans for these high-risk areas."

CITY APPROVES 2024/25 MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENT BUDGET

ETHEKWINI Municipality approved its mid-year adjustment budget for the 2024/25 financial year to respond to current service delivery needs, particularly water and sanitation and electricity. The mid-year adjustment budget was approved during a Full Council meeting on 28 February.

The maintenance of water infrastructure remains a key priority with the allocation of over R400 million for the

operating budget. This aims to ensure a timeous response to water faults and ensuring stock availability at stores.

EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni said leadership will continue to monitor this budget closely to ensure that there is value for money in all projects. “We are happy that a substantial amount of this adjustment budget has been allocated to resolve water and electricity issues. We are pleased

that the Water Turnaround Strategy Business Plan has been developed and over R400 million in an operating budget has been allocated.” Electricity was allocated R426 million to address power faults and contract management. The capital budget includes R378 million allocated for sanitation infrastructure, followed by roads and stormwater infrastructure with an allocation of R197 million while R121 million has been

allocated for health and social services. This adjustment budget also comprises of R146 million allocated for new projects across various service delivery units.

Council also approved the public participation process on the reviewed Spatial Development Framework and the advertisement of the Land Use Scheme and Sub-Schemes for the Central, South, Inner West and Outer West regions.

PLANS TO ADDRESS WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES IN ETHEKWINI

TO address ongoing water supply disruptions in eThekweni, the Minister of Water and Sanitation Pemmy Majodina and Deputy Minister David Mahlobo recently convened an urgent meeting with eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba.

Also attended the high-level meeting was the City's Trading Services Committee Chairperson Councillor Mdu Nkosi, the uMngeni-uThukela Water Board (Uuw) Chairperson Advocate Vusi Khuzwayo as well as top management from the three institutions to discuss the causes of the disruptions and what needs to be done to address them.

The root cause of the water supply disruptions is that the demand for treated water in eThekweni is exceeding the available supply.

The demand for water has grown rapidly, largely due to population growth, and partly due to leaks in the water distribution systems due to aging infrastructure, vandalism, and high consumption levels.

This results in a situation where the City's reservoirs become depleted, because



Minister of Water and Sanitation Pemmy Majodina was in the City to meet with eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and other stakeholders to discuss water supply challenges and proposed solutions. Several formal decisions were taken that eThekweni Municipality would be implementing.

water is being drawn out of them faster than the reservoirs can be filled. This particularly affects water supply to high-lying areas and areas far from the reservoirs. This is because the water levels in the reservoirs drop to a level where they are insufficient to provide the pressure required to get water to the high-lying and far-away areas.

To remedy the situation, the following decisions were taken.

- Council will consider implementing formal water-use restrictions through by-laws.
- Given the recent rainfall and improvement in dam

levels in the uMngeni Water System, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has temporarily lifted the curtailment with effect from 23 February until 23 April 2025.

- Weekly technical coordination meetings between eThekweni Municipality, Uuw, and DWS will continue. There will also be weekly meetings between the Mayor, the Minister, and the Chairperson of Uuw to review progress.
- This work will be coordinated with the fortnightly meetings of the water and sanitation workstream meetings of

the Presidential eThekweni Working Group.

- The City and Uuw will improve their communications regarding water supply disruptions to residents, including the causes of the disruptions and what is being done about them.

The City is implementing several major projects to increase the resilience of its water distribution system to breakdowns and to enable it to manage peaks in demand better with fewer water supply disruptions. This is while Uuw is currently constructing a dam and a 100 megalitre (100 million litres a day) treatment plant on the Lower uMkhomazi River.

The Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority is at an advanced stage of raising R28 billion for the construction of a large new dam and transfer tunnel on the upper uMkhomazi River which is part of the uMkhomazi Water Project. Uuw is in the process of procuring additional treatment capacity so that it will be able to treat and supply more water to eThekweni once the uMkhomazi Water Project is completed.



CITY LAUNCHES REINVENTED TOILETS TO IMPROVE SANITATION IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

THE City launched the innovative Non-Sewered Sanitation (NSS) technology pilot project on 26 February at the Pholani Informal Settlement in La Mercy.

The NSS project comprises of reinvented toilets which are part of a range of innovative sanitation technologies that the City is piloting to improve sanitation services in areas outside of the sewer reticulation network.

The project seeks to address multipronged water and sanitation-related challenges in informal settlements.

The NSS is also a climate-smart technology in that it treats the wastewater generated on site. Once this treated, safe



The City's innovative Non-Sewered Sanitation technology project was launched at the Pholani Informal Settlement in La Mercy. These toilets form part of a range of innovative sanitation technologies the City is piloting.

effluent is recycled for flushing the toilets, this reduces the potable water demand for flushing toilets. In addition,

these toilets can be rapidly deployed in cases of climate disasters, such as floods, to provide safe sanitation.

Speaking during the launch, Chairperson of the Trading Services Committee Councillor Mdu Nkosi said the project will contribute to community preparedness for the resilience of the effects of climate change. "The non-sewered project is responding to the recurrent disasters experienced which often affect infrastructure, as well as the challenge of the shortage of potable water. It's good that this project uses recycled water for flushing," he said.

The NSS project is being tested in three sites in the City including the Ekuthuleni Informal Settlement in Shallcross and Malacca Road in Reservoir Hills.

AIR QUALITY AND ODOUR MANAGEMENT FORUM DISCUSSIONS

THE 4th Air Quality Management Forum, hosted by the City's Pollution Control and Risk Management Department recently, placed strong emphasis on strategies to address air emissions and odour control. This event provided a platform to discuss both present and future efforts in ensuring a safe and healthy environment, aligning with the Bill of Rights.

Phathu Raphaelalani, Senior Manager for Pollution Control in the City applauded the forum's commitment to odour management. "Our objective was to assess the City's own operations and identify how we contribute to odour-related issues. By working across departments, we seek to develop a comprehensive system that minimises odour emissions for the benefit of communities. Over and above that we reviewed the 2008 Odour Management Strategy, which serves as a best practice guide for odour

assessment and management within eThekweni. Effective odour control is crucial for maintaining quality living conditions, whether in residential areas or industrial settings. Understanding the sources and impact of odours is key," said Raphaelalani.

A major focus was the Cleansing and Solid Waste Odour Management Strategies, currently being piloted at the Bisasar Landfill Site. This initiative was introduced in response to ongoing complaints about unpleasant odours affecting residents. Another presentation looked at the Southern Waste Treatment Works Odour Management Plan, developed in partnership with eThekweni Water and Sanitation to mitigate odours from treatment facilities.

The forum also emphasised the importance of regular sewer line maintenance to prevent overflows and the subsequent odours they generate.

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS COMPLIANCE AT SHISANYAMAS AND CATERERS



The City's Environmental Health team with colleagues from the Fire Department and Business Licensing, represented the City at the Shisanyama and Catering Seminar.

THE importance of compliance at shisanyama restaurants and catering businesses dominated discussions at the Shisanyama and Catering Seminar held at uMlazi's Max's Lifestyle Village. Industry leaders gathered to discuss regulatory requirements, with the City's Environmental Health Practitioners leading an informative session aimed at empowering food entrepreneurs and raising

awareness about business compliance.

Senior Environmental Health Practitioner Akhona Nqamra outlined key health and safety requirements for food establishments, based on Regulation 638. "To legally operate a food-handling business, a valid Certificate of Acceptability is mandatory. This certification not only ensures public health protection but also strengthens the credibility of businesses.



Empowering SMMEs in the furniture industry

THE eThekweni Furniture Cluster hosted small, medium, and micro enterprises and furniture industries for an engaging Lean Fundamentals workshop. They were supported by the City's Economic Development Programmes and Planning Unit. The workshop aimed to help businesses in the furniture industry identify opportunities for improvement and apply practical techniques to reduce waste and enhance efficiency.

By adopting sustainable practices that minimise waste and optimise production processes, furniture companies can significantly reduce their environmental

impact while also improving their profitability and competitiveness. By applying these principles, lean manufacturing aims to create a production process that is efficient, flexible, and responsive to customer demand.

This, in turn, leads to reduced waste, increased productivity, improved quality, and increased profitability. This can be achieved through the creation of a culture of continuous improvement, the involvement of all employees in the improvement process, and the adoption of lean manufacturing tools and techniques.

"The training session



The City's Economic Development Programmes and Planning Unit continues to support the eThekweni Furniture Cluster as it rolls out programmes to empower small, medium, and micro enterprises.

provided an opportunity for furniture SMMEs to be inward looking in terms of their operations. They can achieve this by identifying and cutting waste, maximising

on customer value, through continuous improvement and finally production efficiency," said Titus Mazibuko, Project Manager, Economic Development Projects.

DETERGENT MAKING TRAINING TO BOOST ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ETHEKWINI Municipality, in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs, calls on individuals from Ward 1 in KwaXimba to register for the Detergent Making Training Programme before the deadline of 7 March.

This four-day course will take place from 17 to 20 March at the Vula Shared Centre, a detergent manufacturer in KwaMashu.

The programme offers an exciting opportunity for residents to gain valuable skills in both theory and practical aspects of detergent manufacturing.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee in eThekweni, who is also the Ward 1 Councillor, Thembo Ntuli said: "With high unemployment rates affecting many communities, this initiative aims to provide

participants with the technical skills needed to start their own detergent-making businesses. By equipping individuals with knowledge on how to produce detergents, the programme opens doors for new business ventures that can generate income and improve economic independence."

The Detergent Making Programme forms part of eThekweni Municipality's and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs ongoing efforts to foster local entrepreneurship and empower individuals with the skills.

Interested individuals from Ward 1 are encouraged to register by 7 March with the Ward 1 Chairperson for Small Business. For more details, contact Makhosazana Sibiya on makhosazana.sibiya@durban.gov.za or call 031 322 2620.

STRENGTHENING YOUTH SKILLS IN AGRIBUSINESS

BENEFICIARIES of the one-year NQF Level 4 New Venture Creation Learnership in Business Management have hailed eThekweni Municipality, the Food and Beverage Manufacturing Industry Sector Education and Training Authority, and Asime Women NPC for providing them with an invaluable opportunity to enhance their entrepreneurial and business management skills.

This follows the completion of the learnership on 28 February, which marked a milestone in empowering emerging farmers to grow their businesses.

The learnership, which commenced on 9 February last year, involved 100 young participants who received a R3 000 stipend from eThekweni, the majority of whom were women. The programme equipped them

with essential business and entrepreneurial knowledge.

The programme consisted of two phases with five months of theory and seven months of practical training. During the theory phase, participants studied topics such as entrepreneurship basics, financial management, leadership, managing resources, and mathematical literacy. The practical phase involved placing trainees with around 36 host employers to apply their knowledge in real-world settings.

The programme culminates in a graduation ceremony, where learners will receive their NQF Level 4 certificates, marking their hard work, dedication, and growth over the past year.

Beneficiary Sindiswe Masinga said the programme's practical focus helped her gain valuable skills.

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