

ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAINTAINS AN UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION



ETHEKWINI Municipality welcomes the latest audit report which found that the Municipality has maintained an unqualified audit opinion for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

This continues the proud record of the Municipality of receiving an unqualified opinion since inception and reflects the Municipality's commitment to sound financial management and transparent reporting.

However, the Auditor-General's Report identified non-compliance findings in the report in compliance with legislation, material findings in the Annual Performance Report, and material irregularities.

The Municipality acknowledges these findings and is committed to addressing them through enhanced oversight, strengthened internal controls, improving compliance measures, rigorous performance monitoring, and strict

enforcement of accountability for transgressions.

The Municipality is also committed to ensuring effective consequence management without fear or favour to build an organisational culture that drives a people-centred service delivery model.

"We take these findings seriously and are already implementing corrective measures to ensure full compliance with legislative requirements and improved

performance reporting. Our continued commitment to good governance and provision of basic services remains our top priority. This includes the provision of water, sanitation, roads, electricity and human settlements," said eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele.

eThekweni Municipality remains dedicated to financial integrity, regulatory compliance, and continuous improvement in service delivery.

CITY SERIOUS ABOUT EASE OF DOING BUSINESS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES



Ridgeside residents are among those who have benefited from the City's Economic Development Incentive Policy.

THE 5th reviewed Economic Development Incentive Policy (EDIP) 2024/2025 aims to incentivise foreign and local property investments, sustain enterprises, and cultivate a competitive investor-friendly environment in eThekweni. The policy offers financial

relief through property rate rebates and non-financial support for investors aligning with the City's inclusive growth objectives.

Since its inception in 2016, over 1 654 successful applications have been received, attracting more than

R18 billion in investment and more than R90 million in rebate/discount per annum received by beneficiaries. The Municipality has crafted bespoke financial incentives to attract investment and regenerate the inner city, creating commercial activity

and multiple-use developments to enhance densification.

The policy aims to promote the development of vacant land and expansion or redevelopment of existing industrial, commercial, or mixed-use developments. Applications that fall beyond the policy will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Municipality.

The policy also encourages urban regeneration and targets investment into the inner city and high priority integration zones while providing inclusive investment. It also stimulates employment and local procurement. The Programme Manager responsible for policy development and implementation, Dr Nuthan Maharaj, explained that the policy provides financial relief to businesses located within the Municipal area.

Interested investors can contact Dr Nuthan Maharaj on Nuthan.maharaj@durban.gov.za or Vuyokazi Ndzimande on Vuyokazi.ndzimande@durban.gov.za for more information.

MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE AGSA

ETHEKWINI Municipality received the Mid-Year Performance Assessment Report for the first six months of the 2024/2025 financial year, which highlighted the Municipality's service delivery performance. The report also reviewed the past year's annual report and the performance of two Municipal entities under the Municipality's control. The City received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) for the 2023/2024 financial

year, of which the findings will be addressed urgently.

The report highlighted significant progress and resilience in the 2023/2024 financial year, with the City achieving 87.56% performance across sectors, up from 77.03% the previous year. Spatial, natural, and built environment development yielded outstanding results, with a 100% achievement rate in Plan 1.

The City remains committed to improving water services

and addressing infrastructural backlogs, while the Human Settlements Unit continues to provide quality housing and address informal settlements. The mid-year performance assessment shows eThekweni Municipality achieved 68.07% as of 31 December 2024, with the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre and uShaka Marine World also achieving high results.

The City has implemented several initiatives to improve its overall performance.

These include budget planning improvements, the establishment of a Workforce Planning Committee (WPC) to fill vacant posts and increase staff capacity, and mid-year amendments. These efforts aim to align ward-based plans, the budget, the IDP, and the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan. The WPC currently awaits Council approval before public consultation. These measures aim to improve the City's overall performance.



CITY TO HOST WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

THE City is proud to be the official host of the 114th Investec SA Open Golf Championship. Hosting the international event will make a significant contribution to the City's economy and create jobs. Being the host city will also boost local businesses which will in turn benefit communities.

According to Golf RSA, the golf industry contributes R49 billion, or roughly 4% of the Gross Domestic Product, to the South African economy and employs about 40 000 people annually.

The Investec SA Open will be held at the Durban Country Club from 27 February to 2 March 2025. This event is sanctioned by the DP World Tour and will deliver four days of live broadcast exposure, reaching an audience of 350 million homes worldwide.

The City's total sponsorship rights package secures coverage of Durban over a five-month period which will see the City reach more than 1.25 billion viewers.

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said the prestigious string of events will boost the economy, create jobs and enhance City revenue which will enhance service delivery. EThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele explained that in terms of the sponsorship package, the Municipality will participate in several key components of the event including having the status of being the official host city. He said the Golf Business and Lifestyle Convention will be running concurrently with the Open Championship in March. "We are very pleased that the Swing Through Africa Magazine TV Series will be filmed in Durban and KwaZulu-Natal.

The benefits for eThekweni include Durban receiving global exposure, potentially reaching over 1.25 billion viewers," he said. The Golf Business and Lifestyle Convention will run concurrently with the Open Championship in March 2025, while the subsequent Sunshine Tour Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 2025. This Sunshine Tour event, hosted in partnership with eThekweni, will feature 156 local professional golfers competing for a share of the R2 million prize fund. This tournament will run concurrently with Africa's Travel Indaba. The events will be captured and broadcast by "Swing Through Africa" - a captivating golf travel and leisure TV show that takes viewers on an enchanting journey through the picturesque golf courses of South Africa. Each

episode showcases a different golf course, exploring the beauty of the surrounding province and highlighting local entertainment, culture, attractions, plus business opportunities. Dean Burmester has confirmed that he will defend his 2024 Investec South African Open title. "As South Africans, it's our fifth Major and we all want to win it so badly. This is a tournament I watched growing up and I watched legends like Ernie (Els), Retief (Goosen), Louis (Oosthuizen) and Branden (Grace) win," said Burmester.



INDIAN NAVAL SHIP VISITS ETHEKWINI



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba attended the Indian Naval Ship reception dinner which formed part of celebrating 76 years of India being a republic. Mayor Xaba said he was pleased that South Africa and India continue to maintain strong relations that are mutually beneficial for both countries. As part of strengthening relations, the Indian Natal Ship "Tushil" was docked at the Durban Harbour and was open for the public to enjoy.

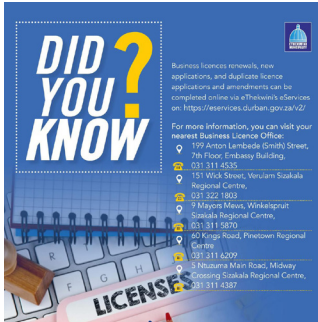
THE Indian Natal Ship "Tushil" visited the Port of Durban from 29 January to 1 February as part of enhancing cooperation between the Indian Navy and the South African Navy. The visit to Durban highlighted the historical links and the importance accorded by India to bilateral relations with South Africa as well as to strengthen the existing bonds between the two countries. The ship was opened for public viewing as part of celebrating friendship between the two countries. The ship returned to India after visiting London, Casablanca,

Romania, Lagos, and Spain since December.

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed the ship and its crew at a special dinner with members of the Indian Navy. "We are happy that we were visited by members of the Indian Navy. We value the strong relations that we have with India and the bilateral relations that our country has with the country. Seeing people come out in their numbers to view the ship made it even more meaningful," said Mayor Xaba.



ENCOURAGING TURNOUT AS SPAZA SHOP OWNERS CONTINUE TO REGISTER THEIR BUSINESSES



ETHEKWINI Municipality has seen an encouraging response to the spaza shop business license registration process, with over 4 600 spaza shop owners successfully registering their businesses. This follows national government's extension of the registration deadline to 28 February 2025.

Since registration began in November last year, 250 of the registered businesses have completed all the necessary steps, including the mandatory 21-day waiting period, and have now received their official business licenses.

This process involves submitting all required departmental documents, passing inspections by Environmental Health Practitioners and Safety and Fire Officers, and meeting other compliance checks.

For foreign nationals, proof of a valid work permit was also verified with the Department of Home Affairs.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba expressed satisfaction with the turnout, calling it an encouraging sign of the sector's commitment to working with the Municipality to ensure compliance and safety.

"This shows that spaza shop owners are committed to partnering with eThekwini Municipality to promote safer communities. We urge all spaza shop owners to continue registering, as it will help improve compliance standards, reduce health and safety risks, and unlock potential development opportunities,"

said Mayor Xaba.

For those who have not yet registered, additional opportunities are available.

EThekwini Municipality has scheduled a series of business information sharing workshops in February across multiple wards. These workshops will provide detailed information on all things business licensing and offer onsite registration assistance.

The upcoming workshops will take place as follows:

- 5 February: Burlington Sports Ground, Ward 65
- 12 February: Soul Harvest Church (PS Nogoni), White Tent, Opposite Checksave at the Westrich Tax Rank, Ward 36
- 19 February: Belvedere Hall, Ward 61
- 26 February: Magabheni Community Hall, Ward 99.

Mayor Xaba issued a stern warning to those who believe they can avoid registering their spaza shop.

"We will not tolerate non-compliance. In the last quarter of 2024, we issued 457 notices to businesses that failed to comply. These businesses now face the risk of prosecution and possible shutdown by law enforcement, including the South African Police Services and the Metro Police. In extreme cases, businesses found to pose an immediate danger to public health are closed by the Environmental Health Unit," he said.

The Municipality is also in the process of uploading the names of legally registered spaza shops to its website, which will increase transparency and accountability within the sector.

Spaza shop owners are encouraged to visit their local regional licensing office or attend one of the upcoming workshops for further information and to complete their registration.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE TO BUILD BETTER KZN

SOLUTIONS to deal with underutilised, dilapidated, and problem buildings owned by government came under the spotlight during the two-day Build KZN Better Conference on Property Management held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre recently.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed a high-level delegation and approximately 500 delegates to the conference which took place on 28 and 29 January. The event, led by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, was

designed to bring together industry professionals to share knowledge, explore innovations, and network.

The event was attended by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean MacPherson, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thami Ntuli, and MEC of Public Works and Infrastructure Martin Meyer together with other significant leaders. Their attendance showed commitment to the partnership and a memorandum of agreement signed late last year between the three spheres of government to tackle problem buildings.



From left to right is Mbali Shinga, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Social Development; Martin Meyer, KZN MEC of Public Works and Infrastructure; eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba; Dean MacPherson, Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure; and Thulasizwe Buthelezi, MEC of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. They were at the Property Management Conference.

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