

INTERVENTIONS TO STABILISE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM CONTINUE

EThekweni Municipality is treating with utmost priority the water supply challenge affecting several areas in the City, including the Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in uMlazi. The City has experienced an increase in water demand since the commencement of the summer season, which resulted in low pressure and no water supply in critical points across supply systems. As part of concerted efforts to speedily remedy the situation, we can confirm that water started flowing at the hospital momentarily on 10 February; however, interventions to stabilise their system are not yet complete. A Municipal operations team is onsite and will continue to monitor the supply to the hospital and surrounding areas while investigating other factors.

It is important to note that the demand for water remains

higher than the available water supply across the City. This is more prevalent in the southern and northern regions. This is due to rapid urbanisation in the southern and northern regions and the reduction of water supply because of the water curtailment measures that were implemented by uMngeni-uThukela Water in October last year. The reality is that demand currently exceeds supply by approximately 100 megalitres a day, resulting in further strain on the system despite the water curtailment measures being in place. To manage the demand, the City will continue to ration areas with high demand. This is being done to build sufficient water levels, especially in the evenings. Water is re-opened in the morning. Other interventions include identifying and repairing leaks and checking all control valves

and repairing and replacing them where needed. Residents and businesses are urged to use water sparingly as this will help recover the system. If water is not used responsibly, reservoirs get depleted quickly. This makes it difficult for reservoirs to maintain adequate water levels, even if water rationing is implemented overnight. Those with static tanks are discouraged from connecting to the Municipal reticulation network. The effect of too many static tanks is that available water supply is not shared equitable as water fills up static tanks, leaving some households with intermittent or no supply while the reservoir builds up storage. To augment the water supply, comprehensive plans have been set in motion in collaboration with the national Department of Water and Sanitation

and uMngeni-uThukela Water to construct and commission the uMkhomazi Dam, a pivotal project to augment water supply to the City. The Municipality is actively implementing various medium-term interventions, including infrastructure upgrades, pipeline replacements, a comprehensive leak detection and repair programme, installation of pressure management valves, dysfunctional meter replacements, the incorporation of technology to enhance meter accuracy, and improvements in billing and debtor management.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The public can download eThekweni Municipality's Mobile App to log faults or send a WhatsApp to 073 1483 477. Alternatively, call the toll-free number on 080 311 1111 or email Eservices@durban.gov.za

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed the donation of static tanks from the mobile communications giant, Vodacom. The static tanks, which Vodacom described as their contribution to uplift communities in which they operate, will be deployed to areas that have a limited water supply network in the City. Vodacom started the programme shortly after the 2022 April floods which saw extensive damage to water infrastructure in the City. The static tanks were part of an effort of ensuring that communities that were



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed the donation of static tanks from the mobile communications giant, Vodacom. He said working with the private sector, more can be done to improve the City.

affected by the floods had access to water.

Mayor Xaba commended Vodacom for being a good corporate citizen and encouraged other private sector companies to follow suit. "We are grateful of this donation from Vodacom as it demonstrates that if we work together as social partners, we can address many developmental challenges plaguing communities. We will continue to engage Vodacom to share ideas to improve service delivery in the City, considering its technological capability," he said.

EMERGING FARMERS URGED TO APPLY FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



Lungile Mchunu of Lungile Mchunu Consultancy and Training, operates from the Municipality's Cottonlands Agri-Park. She will transfer skills to aspiring and emerging crop and poultry farmers within the eThekweni region as part of a six-month skills development workshop.

EMERGING farmers in crop and poultry production are invited to apply for a six-month skills development training programme. This initiative will be facilitated by a joint venture of Lungile

Mchunu Consultancy Training and Nokusho M, funded by the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). The application deadline for this programme is 21 February 2025. To apply, candidates must

meet the following criteria:

- Have passed at least grade nine,
- Be able to read and write,
- Be a South African residing in the eThekweni Municipality,
- Not be enrolled in any other government-funded programme, and
- Be between 18 and 49 years of age.

Applicants should submit a recently certified ID copy, certified qualifications, and a curriculum vitae (CV) to careers@lmconsultancy.co.za

Successful candidates will receive a stipend for the duration of the training.

Lungile Mchunu, founder of Lungile Mchunu Consultancy Training, is a success story of the City. She received skills development and infrastructural support through the Municipality's Agri-Business Department and is now growing from strength to

strength. Mchunu currently operates from one of the Municipality's Agri-parks Incubators, located in Cottonlands.

"We will provide two months of theory training, followed by four months of practicals. During the practical phase, we will work with eThekweni Municipality to place trainees in various incubators and provide 24 months of mentorship to ensure their farms are functional," said Mchunu.

The programme is targeting approximately 630 trainees, specifically from areas such as Ntshongweni, KwaXimba, Cato Ridge, Hammarsdale, Mophela, Pinetown, Dassenhoek, Marianhill, Inanda, Maphephetheni, KwaMashu, Umzinyathi, Isiphingo, Mbumbulu, and Folweni among others.

For enquiries contact: 061 502 0620 / 061 502 2717 Email: recruitments@N&Lconsultancy.co.za or info@lmconsultancy.co.za

COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR SPAZA SHOP BUSINESS LICENSE REGISTRATION

THE clock is ticking for spaza shop owners in eThekweni Municipality as the deadline for business license registration draws near. With only a few weeks left, businesses are urged to act swiftly to avoid penalties.

eThekweni Municipality has ramped up its efforts to ensure that all spaza shops are properly registered before the deadline of 28 February. On 4 February, a business empowerment workshop was held at the Ntuzuma A Hall which accelerated the spaza shop registration efforts.

The workshop provided valuable business development insights while also emphasising the importance of spaza shop

business licensing. Onsite registration was available, and many entrepreneurs queued to get their paperwork in order.

Qondi Liqwa, Business Licensing Manager for eThekweni Municipality, highlighted the urgency of the situation. "We've already received over 5 000 applications, but time is running out," she said. "With barely two and a half weeks left before the registration deadline, the countdown is on. We urge everyone to comply now and get their spaza shop licensed to avoid fines and penalties."

To make registration more accessible, several additional business empowerment workshops will be held before the

registration deadline. On 12 February, the team will be at Soul Harvest Church, located opposite Checksave at the Westrich Taxi Rank, followed by another session at the Belvedere Hall on 19 February.

The final workshop will take place at the Magabheni Community Hall on 26 February. During these workshops, entrepreneurs can register onsite and receive other guidance.

Liqwa stressed the importance of these workshops. "Our goal is to bring the registration process closer to the people. After the deadline, compliance operations will be in full swing, and penalties will be enforced for those who haven't registered. No one will

be able to claim ignorance." Spaza shop owners can also register their licenses at various Regional Offices as follows:

- 199 Anton Lembede Street, 7th Floor, Embassy Building
- Verulam Sizakala Regional Centre, 151 Wick Street
- Winkelspruit Sizakala Regional Centre, 9 Mayors Mews
- Pinetown Regional Centre, 60 Kings Road
- Midway Crossing Sizakala Regional Centre, 5 Ntuzuma Main Road.

For enquiries email: Licensing@durban.gov.za or call 031 311 4535.



INCENTIVES PROGRAMMES SECURES INVESTORS IN THE CITY

THE Brickworks Investec Property Development is one of the success stories of the City's Ease of Doing Business Programme. A recent visit to the site, located in the rapidly expanding northern corridor on North Coast Road, saw significant progress made.

The Brickworks is a beneficiary of the economic development incentive, which is designed to provide financial relief to investors in the form of a property rates rebate. The site visit was to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the rebate and to verify that the intended economic, social, and environmental benefits are being realised.

Investec Property is currently undertaking and planning the next phases of the 157-hectare site development in order to create one of the largest business and logistics parks in the region. The Ease of Doing Business programme,



The Northern Corridor Investec property development forms part of the City's Ease of Doing Business and Incentives Programmes, which work to attract investment to the City.

which is facilitated by the Economic Development Unit, continues to support businesses to encourage property development and investment in Durban.

Programme Manager of the Ease of Doing Business and Incentives Programmes, Dr Nuthan Maharaj, highlighted that the bespoke incentive

offered to Investec Properties by the City, heralded Durban as the most financially feasible destination for this mega development.

"The Municipality welcomes the development and expansion of business, employment, and rates revenue to the City," said Dr. Maharaj.

REGISTER ON E-SERVICES NOW

THE City has embarked on digitising revenue management services. And through this programme, plans are in place to migrate the services of sending customer bills from manual postage to a completely electronic method. All customers are therefore encouraged to register on the e-Services portal so that they are not left behind. E-Services is a digital portal designed to ensure a seamless and convenient transacting experience where customers can do everything with the click of a button. Customers can view their Municipal bill, capture water and electricity meter readings, query their bill, apply for a debit order, update customer information and even pay their bill.

Deputy Head of the Revenue Management Unit Banele Bavu explained: "The portal was created to ensure convenience and accessibility without customers having to travel to Municipal offices. It also ensures transparency, as customers can track their usage against recent bills and make payments online as we have integrated a digital payment option."

There are over 422 000 customers already registered on e-Services.

To register, visit <https://eservices.durban.gov.za/v2/>, create a profile, provide your ID copy, account number and a letter of authority if you are a third party. Alternatively, send an email with the eThekweni account number and contact details to revlineresponse@durban.gov.za

CITY COMMITS TO JOINING PROVINCIAL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY



EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni said the City is committed to joining other spheres of government in their crime prevention strategies.

ETHEKWINI Municipality has thrown its weight behind the Premier-led KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime (CAC). A meeting was convened at the Archie Gumede Conference Centre in Mayville to address the

recent spike in criminal activities. The CAC structure serves as a solidified board of provincial leadership and law enforcement agencies, which seeks to facilitate structured engagements and discussions between

the Provincial Government, civil society, and national structures to enhance the department's mandate to combat crime effectively.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thami Ntuli said: "Our holistic approach is to implement crime prevention strategies which will ensure citizens are safe."

EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni said as the only metro in the province, they had a role to play in the fight against crime. "We are committed to working with different spheres of government to boost the local economy and to drive tourism," she said.



RECREATIONAL AND FISHING ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED FROM UMNGENI ESTUARY TO BLUE LAGOON



THE City has prohibited recreational and fishing activities from the Umngeni Estuary all the way to the Blue Lagoon Beach due to environmental concerns pertaining to illegal waste disposal and sewage discharge. This in accordance with the Coastal Compliance Notice issued by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

This ban comes after a directive by the Department in line with Section 59(1) of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act no. 24 of 2008.

Intervention measures

undertaken by the City to remedy the situation include cleaning the sewer trunk mainline. This yielded the removal of about 30 cubic metres of silt, debris and detritus.

Other measures include the conversion of Johanna Road Pumpstation from manual operation to automated. This will allow the pumps to be active once the sump reaches a certain level.

Extensive clean-up operations on the site have also been completed, however the land is prone to illegal dumping and other social ills. To deter illegal dumping near the Umngeni Estuary, “No Dumping” signage was

installed to warn the public that illegal dumpers will be prosecuted. The roads department has also been engaged to erect concrete barriers/bollards at the entrance to prevent easy access. Investigation of the source causing the discharge of sewage effluent along the Umngeni Estuary is underway.

Fishermen are urged to adhere to the fishing restriction until further notice while the investigation is underway.

The beach is presently patrolled by law enforcement units to prevent fishing in the area. Those who are found contravening his directive could be fined.

KINGS PARK POOL REVAMP

THE Kings Park Pool is undergoing a much-needed revamp. The City has allocated R42 million to rehabilitate the facility. The revamp is already underway, and forms part of the City’s maintenance programme for all its swimming venues. The Kings Park Pool complex consists of both indoor and outdoor facilities. The indoor facility has a 50-metre swimming pool while the outdoor facility has a diving pool of 25 metre length and is 6.5m deep.

Acting Head of the Parks, Leisure and Cemeteries Unit Dr Zakhi Mkhize said the facility is the only swimming facility in South Africa that has a FINA (International Swimming Federation) status recognised by the International Olympic Committee for administering international competition

in water. She said it was important for the City to upgrade the Kings Park Pool as it is the home of international and local swimming championships.

“The current rehabilitation focuses on restoring the damaged infrastructure caused by severe strong winds last year. The City then decided to add an element of an upgrade to meet the standard of the facility.” The rehabilitation will include replacement of lighting and glass windows, non-slip coating of stairs and paving, revamping of the walkway structure including installing handrails, revamp of the canteen area, plastering and painting of the structure, and the installation of new signage, scoreboards, and diving boards. Work is expected to be completed by April.

CITY CLINICS MEET SAFETY STANDARDS

THE City’s health facilities have been recognised for their excellence in compliance with safety and quality standards by the Office of Health Standards and Compliance. A total of 36 clinics have successfully met the rigorous criteria set by the independent regulatory body, which operates under parliamentary oversight. Following thorough inspections, these clinics were accredited for their high standards in service delivery, infrastructure, emergency preparedness, and patient care. The City has 59 clinics, which all meet the safety standards.

Out of the 59 clinics, 38 have undergone audits between 2022 and 2024. Their accreditation remains valid for four years, with the remaining facilities to be audited this year.

Head of Health, Rose Van Heerden, expressed her excitement at this achievement, highlighting its significance for both the public and healthcare workers.

“This is positive and exciting feedback for the City’s clinics as it means that the public who use these facilities are provided health care in safe spaces. The facilities were audited and met excellent standards of safety. The audit also examined the structure of the clinic, the emergency room and its equipment, as well as how complaints and procedures are handled. They assess numerous factors required for health facilities to operate efficiently,” said Van Heerden.

She acknowledged that work needs to be done at facilities that did not meet the set standards.

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