

UPDATE ON WATER SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS IN ETHEKWINI

AN UPDATE on plans to ensure a stable water supply in the City were outlined following a meeting by the Department of Water and Sanitation, eThekweni Municipality, and uMngeni-uThukela Water on 23 February.

Minister of Water and Sanitation Penny Majodina and Deputy Minister David Mahlobo convened an urgent meeting with eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, eThekweni'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. The meeting was to discuss the causes of the water disruptions and what needs to be done to address them.

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

This results in a situation where the City's reservoirs become depleted, because water is being drawn out of them faster than the reservoirs can be filled. This has been the main cause of water supply disruptions in Chatsworth, uMlazi and surrounding areas in the South, as well as Verulam, oThongathi, and Ntuzuma in the North.

In addition, UUW had to shut down one of its pipelines last month to allow for the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) to upgrade the N3 highway. This affected water supply to Hillcrest and other



A joint media statement on the water supply situation in eThekweni was released by the Department of Water and Sanitation, the City, and uMngeni-uThukela Water. In this file picture is eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele, and Jabulani Mayise, Area Manager for the North Region Water Operations along with other executives from uMngeni-uThukela Water.

areas in the outer west of the City. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) also set a limit on the amount of raw water that uMngeni-uThukela Water can abstract from the uMngeni Water Supply System (uMWS) for eThekweni to supply to its consumers.

Various projects are underway to augment the amount of water in the uMWS. The raising of the Hazelmere Dam wall was completed in 2023 at a cost of R820 million and has doubled the amount of water that can be stored in the Dam. UMngeni-uThukela Water has completed a project to increase the capacity of the Hazelmere Water Treatment Works from 55 to 75 megalitres per day (75 million litres per day), at a cost of R135 million. The

capacity of the treatment work will be further increased to 90 megalitres per day within the next three years, at a cost of R25 million.

In addition, UUW is currently constructing a dam and a 100 million megalitres treatment plant on the Lower uMkhomazi River. The Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) 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.

eThekweni Municipality is also

working on its own measures to increase the supply of water. In addition to the existing water re-use plant currently being used by industries, the City is in the process of procuring two additional water re-use plants that will treat secondary effluent to produce potable water that meets the required water quality standards.

The meeting agreed on the following measures:

- Council will consider implementing formal water-use restrictions through by-laws.
- The DWS will again temporarily lift the curtailment, until 23 April 2025.
- Improved communications regarding water supply disruptions.

CITY JOINS MIDDLE EAST DELEGATION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

AS PART of the ongoing drive to bolster South Africa's infrastructure and attract global investment, representatives from eThekweni Municipality, joined the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Dean Macpherson, on a pivotal mission to the Middle East. The delegation aims to explore infrastructure investment, global partnerships, and public-private collaboration.

Representing the City is Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli and Acting Deputy City Manager of the Economic Development and Planning Cluster George Mohlakoana.

The visit to Kuwait took place from 19 to 21 February, followed by a stop in the United Arab Emirates from 21 to 24 February. From 24 to 26 February, the delegation will engage with stakeholders in Saudi Arabia, concluding the tour in Qatar from 26 and 27 February.

The key objective of the visit is to attract investment from



Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Dean Macpherson, with the MEC of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in Limpopo Ernest Rachoene, and Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli. They are pictured with Nayef Almudhaf, Acting Assistant Foreign Minister of African Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuwait. The delegation arrived with the Acting Head of Infrastructure South Africa Mameetse Masemola.

Middle Eastern sovereign wealth funds, which are forecasted to manage nearly \$8 trillion by 2030. With an emphasis on infrastructure development and public-private partnerships, the mission seeks to engage with sovereign wealth fund representatives,

state-owned enterprises, and construction giants.

Councillor Ntuli said: "For eThekweni, this visit represents a unique opportunity to present its investment portfolio and explore foreign direct investment opportunities."

Plans for a world-class logistics park

THE CITY has started the consultation process on the amendment to the Land Use Scheme in the Clairwood area to Special Zone 40: Logistics. This gives effect to the Local Area Plan (LAP) adopted by the City in 2014.

All interested and affected parties are invited to provide their comment on the amendment by 8 April 2025.

The purpose of the amendment is to create a quality environment in line with the City's vision. This will ensure better management of the area. Clairwood has always been a mixed-use area with industry surrounding a

residential core. The intended masterplan looks to creating uses that respond directly to the Port.

The City aims to ensure that all land uses in the area are done legally.

"It should be noted that the area plays a significant role in the local, regional, national, and international economy. Importantly, the amended scheme will provide an adopted legal framework to assess future development applications against an adopted masterplan and zoning controls," said Lihle Phewa, Head of the Development Planning and Environmental

Management Unit.

He said: "It is important to record that the outcome of this process will not result in any development rights being granted to the subject properties, rather a development framework that will serve as the masterplan from which to assess and evaluate development applications."

The Municipality is not rezoning land. The masterplan will direct the developer and the Municipality to make informed decisions. The document can be found on bit.ly/418DhGC

COMMENT ON DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC consultation meetings are underway with various stakeholders to discuss the City's Draft Annual Report for 2023/24. A consultation meeting took place on 25 February at the Pinetown Civic Centre. Meetings are scheduled to take place on 10 and 13 March.

The Draft Report is available on the Municipal website for comments and accessible electronically at City libraries and Sizakala Centres.

The public has until 14 March 2025 to comment.

The Annual Report is a legal document that the Municipality must provide to the public that describes the operations and the financial conditions of the City.

It highlights some of the key achievements and challenges.

The Draft Annual Report cited an increase in the achievement rate in the City's performance from 77.03% in 2022/23 to 87.56% in 2023/24.

The Municipality prides itself of this improvement, despite natural disasters and budgetary constraints experienced by the City during the past year.

The report notes that transport infrastructure has seen substantial improvements, enhancing connectivity and accessibility. Advances in the water and sanitation sector have also improved public health and living conditions, while strides have been made in providing quality housing and addressing informal settlements.

The Municipality achieved a 93 percent collection rate in 2023/24 and aims to improve to over 95 percent in the 2024/25 financial year.



NATJOINTS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO ASSESS BUSINESS LICENSE REGISTRATION

AN OVERSIGHT visit to various eThekweni business license registration sites was recently conducted. The visit was held ahead of the 28 February deadline for spaza shop license registration and involved key stakeholders such as Business Licensing, Environmental Health, and Land Use Management.

Leading the oversight visit was the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS), alongside the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the National Consumer Commission.

To date, the Municipality has processed about 5 500 applications and granted 1 402 licenses and permits. The main goal of the visit was to evaluate the progress made



Members of the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, along with other stakeholders, were hosted at one of the City's Business Licensing Offices at Embassy Building on 21 February to observe the business license application process.

since the President's call last year for license registrations and to identify challenges encountered along the way. The delegation also sought to learn from eThekweni Municipality's best practices in the registration process. Qondi Liqwa, Licensing

Manager for eThekweni's Informal Economy and Retail Markets, guided the delegation through the registration process at the Municipality's Regional Business Licensing Office. She demonstrated the application procedures, including landlord

consents, proof of application submission, and permits granted.

The NATJOINTS team praised eThekweni's preparedness, requesting copies of documents and service level agreements to use as benchmarks for ongoing policy development of Municipalities.

Liqwa highlighted challenges such as unreachable phone numbers and non-compliant addresses provided by some tuck-shop owners.

She encouraged those who have not received feedback to return to the Regional Offices where they applied or to contact the licensing office via email at: licensing@durban.gov.za or call 031 311 4535 to follow-up on their application.

Spaza shops owners are urged to ensure that they are registered before the 28 February deadline to ensure compliance with the law.

Register now to showcase at the North Business Fair

REGISTRATION for the Regional Durban Business Fair is now open and will close on 14 March.

The exhibition will take place from 28 to 30 March at the Bridge City Shopping Centre in KwaMashu. This highly anticipated exhibition offers a platform for businesses in the north and surrounding areas to showcase their products and services.

To register, businesses can obtain application forms and submit their registration by visiting:

- Business Support Offices, Embassy Building, 7th Floor, 199 Anton Lembede Street, Durban (forms also available at the security desk)



eThekweni Municipality continues to create opportunities for businesses as showcased at the Durban Business Fair exhibition. This is where exhibitors can meet eager buyers.

- Any Sizakala Centre
- The Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 101 Isaiah Ntshangase Road, Stamford Hill, Durban
- Email Zamani.Shezi@durban.gov.za to request an application form.

Alternatively, businesses can register online. They can

download the registration form from eThekweni Municipality's website: www.durban.gov.za, under the Government tab, followed by clicking on Documents and then Public Notices. The fair offers a chance to win great prizes.

For enquiries, call 031 311 4500 or email zamani.shezi@durban.gov.za

CIGFARO PFMA WORKSHOP

THIS year's instalment of the Public Financial Management Act Workshop focused on changing the landscape of public financial management through enhanced competence and ethical behaviour to improve service delivery.

The two-day workshop, hosted by the Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers (CIGFARO) took place on 24 and 25 February. Some of the pertinent topics that were covered included the critical role of internal audit and the internal control function in improving audit outcomes and to enhance/introduce preventative controls to safeguard against corruption.



ENTRIES NOW OPEN FOR THE DFF 2025 MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

THE DURBAN Fashion Fair (DFF) Class of 2025 Mentorship Programme is open for applications until 20 March. This impactful initiative, spearheaded by eThekweni Municipality, is dedicated to empowering emerging fashion designers.

To apply, submit the following documents:

- A short bio or business profile
- A motivational letter
- A storyboard or images of your latest collection
- A residential letter from your ward councillor
- Proof of qualifications

All applications must be delivered by 3pm Thursday, 20 March 2025 to the Business Support Offices, 7th Floor, Embassy Building, 199 Anton Lembede Street, Durban.

The DFF Mentorship Programme aims to nurture local talent and establish



Designers that were part of the 2024 Durban Fashion Fair Mentorship Programme. Designers interested in joining the programme this year are encouraged to apply.

Durban as a leading fashion hub. By offering mentorship, training, and exposure, it has enabled numerous designers to launch successful businesses, fostering economic growth and job creation in the region. Aspiring designers can apply for a transformative experience focusing on:

Technical Fashion Skills

- Mastering design and craftsmanship.
- **Business Development**
Gaining key tools for brand growth.
- **Market Access and Retail**
– Connecting designers to potential markets.

- **Networking Opportunities**
Building connections with industry professionals.

Councillor Thembo Ntuli, Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee, emphasised the programme's impact.

“The DFF Mentorship Programme is a game-changer for young creatives. By combining business acumen with technical expertise, we're positioning Durban as Africa's and global fashion leader while fostering job creation in the local textile industry.”

The DFF Mentorship Programme is part of the broader eThekweni Municipality Fashion Development Programme.

For more information on the programme contact Nondumiso Mthembu on 031 311 4497 or email Nondumiso.mthembu@durban.gov.za

EThekweni Climate Change Portal

THE CLIMATE Change Department has developed an innovative, user-friendly information portal that provides centralised information on climate change.

The Climate Change Portal is embedded within the “eThekweni Strategic Hub” which won two public service awards for innovation. This one-stop portal provides information on the City's policies and progress with implementing climate change programmes that help the City adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact. The portal will be updated twice annually following



monitoring and reporting of the Durban Climate Change Implementation Plan. Dr Luyanda Mafumbu, Deputy Head of eThekweni's Climate Change Department, stressed the importance and the need for awareness and education in climate change. He said: “Communication is one of the most powerful tools that the

City utilises to inform, educate, and influence residents on sustainable behavioural choices that will contribute to building a just, low-carbon and climate-resilient City. Effective communication and climate action will bridge the gap between where we are today and where we need to be tomorrow. The Climate

Change Portal is a tool to aid the process of keeping our communities informed.” Dr Sean O'Donoghue, Senior Manager: Climate Change Adaptation Branch said: “As a City, we are we are making it easy for residents and businesses to have access to updated climate change information and scientific research that will inform and guide decision makers and communities in responding more effectively to the challenge of climate change.” To access the portal click: <https://bit.ly/3EUgcA9>

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

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