

## R10BN ALLOCATED TO REBUILD MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**E**THEKWINI Municipality has allocated approximately R10 billion to rebuild water, electricity, and solid waste management infrastructure.

This comes as Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana announced a R3.33 billion grant allocation to eThekweni for trading services reforms over the next three years.

This is a performance grant to be used to upgrade water and sanitation, electricity and solid waste management to ensure that trading services are self-sufficient.

The reforms for trading services will initially affect water and electricity for the first year starting in the 2025/26 financial year.

With respect to the eThekweni Water and Sanitation (EWS) Unit, the City has adopted a Water and Sanitation Turnaround Strategy (TAS) and further developed the Business and Investment Plan and an Institutional and Governance Reform Roadmap. The latter has six strategic pillars that underpin the reform of EWS into a ring-fenced commercial business unit as echoed by



The City has allocated about R10 billion for trading services projects. This comes as Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced a R3.33 billion grant allocation to eThekweni for trading services reforms over the next three years.

Minister Godongwana in the recent budget speech.

### THE STRATEGIC PILLARS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Institutionalisation of single point of accountability
- Acquisition of management, technical, and change leadership capabilities
- Improvement of governance model
- Financial ring-fencing of Water and Sanitation

### Business Unit

- Improving budget execution rate and catalyse the flow of private and international long-term financing
- Augmentation of management capacity through a performance-based management contract.

As the City aligns its budget priorities, the additional funds will be directed to the EWS TAS programmes that seek to reduce water losses, improve

customer call centre systems, water metering as well as intermittent water supply while reducing inefficiencies in all operations. The R3.33 billion incentive grant will help the City gear up its existing resources to accelerate the reforms required and reposition trading services to attract the required investments to improve the business as per the business and investment plans developed for the next five years.

## CITY GEARS UP TO HOST G20 DISASTER SESSION

THE spotlight will once again be on Durban as the City gears up to host the Disaster Risk Reduction Ministerial Session in April at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre. This session forms part of the G20 Summit being hosted by South Africa. Ministers responsible for emergency and disaster related

portfolios in the G20 member states are expected to gather for the two-day session on 10 and 11 April, in a build-up to the summit taking place in Johannesburg in November.

The disaster risk reduction focuses on preventing and mitigating risks, preparing for emergencies, responding effectively to disasters, and ensuring recovery and

rehabilitation after disasters, all while strengthening community resilience. Durban stands to benefit immensely by learning from other countries experiences on how they deal with disasters. This comes as eThekweni has been hit hard by back-to-back severe disasters that damaged critical infrastructure, which in turn, requires billions to

repair as well as resulting in the loss of lives. Experts and researchers will also share valuable information on disaster prevention and mitigation strategies for coastal cities. The session will also provide eThekweni Municipality with an opportunity to present on how the City has dealt with these recent disasters.

# CITY TO REOPEN THE BUFFELSDRAAI LANDFILL SITE



**EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba met with residents of Ward 59 to discuss the City's plans to reopen the Buffelsdraai Landfill Site.**

complete. The Municipality has further prioritised support for a group of waste re-claimers that came forward for assistance. A facilitation team was commissioned to guide the re-claimers through a business planning process and capacity building. "It is our hope that the model that has been developed for this area can be emulated and used in other communities to empower people living close to landfill sites," said Mayor Xaba.

He said that developing recycling programmes not only keeps the environment clean but also opens avenues for generating an income for households. Mayor Xaba said he is pleased that the City has found lasting solutions following the unfortunate incidents of arson and vandalism at the Buffelsdraai Landfill Site which disrupted operations. Food and any other consumable waste is still prohibited at the site.

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba led a delegation to meet residents from Ward 59 regarding the planned reopening of the Buffelsdraai Landfill Site on 13 March.

This follows extensive rehabilitation and safety improvement projects undertaken at the site after it was temporarily closed in July 2023.

The landfill site is set to officially reopen in two

phases commencing in April for garden refuse, builders' rubble, and sand cover material. The second phase is planned for complete opening in May for all other general waste which includes domestic waste. Among the delegation accompanying Mayor Xaba was Inkosi uMqoqi Ngcobo, Chairperson of the Trading Services Committee Councillor Mduduzi Nkosi, and Ward 59 Councillor Nkosiyezwe

Mhlongo.

Speaking during the meeting, Mayor Xaba said the Municipality has established a separate sorting facility where re-claimers will operate from. He said the facility has undergone all the necessary statutory compliances and will initially be overseen by an independent operator who is required to manage the facility on sound fiscal principles. The facility is already 98 percent

## Premier Ntuli and Mayor Xaba visit flood-stricken communities

KWAZULU-NATAL Premier Thami Ntuli and eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba on 16 March visited families who were affected by the recent floods in Inanda, Nhlungwane, and Lamontville.

Some of the victims have been relocated to accommodation in the inner-city.

From 19 February to 15 March, the recurring floods have claimed lives and damaged infrastructure in eThekwini. Close to 6 000 people and 1 452 houses have been affected.

Two people died in the most recent floods. This includes the death of a 54-year-old female whose vehicle washed away while attempting to cross a low-lying bridge and the body

of a 21-year-old female recovered in lower Molweni.

Mayor Xaba urged the community to dispose waste in designated areas as debris gets deposited in stormwater drainage systems during heavy rains, which can lead to flooding.

Mayor Xaba said that flooding during storms is primarily influenced by the intensity of rainfall, the capacity of drainage systems, and debris carried by stormwater.

In eThekwini, stormwater systems are designed to handle a 1-in-10-year storm event at critical points and a 1-in-3-year storm event in non-critical areas. Large canals and river protection works are built to withstand 1-in-50 or



**KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thami Ntuli and eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba visited families on 16 March who were affected by the recent floods.**

1-in-100-year storm events. Over the past decade, the City has experienced an increasing frequency of severe floods. To mitigate risks and protect

lives and infrastructure, the Municipality has implemented strategic interventions, including the Forecast Early Warning System.





# CRUISE TOURISM A BOOST FOR DURBAN'S ECONOMY

THE 2023/24 draft annual report highlighted the significant impact cruise tourism has on the City. Among the highlights was Durban Tourism participating in the Sea Trade Global Cruise Conference in Miami in the United States to robustly sell and promote Durban as a cruise port city. Durban Tourism was able to connect with the world's cruise community, explore key trends and discover cutting-edge strategies from cruise industry leaders.

More than 500 exhibitors and about 80 cruise line brands across the world attended the Sea Trade Global Cruise Conference.

Cruise tourism continues to be a draw card for local and international tourism for Durban as it attracts national and international visitors and media who contribute to the



**The 2023/24 annual report highlighted the impact cruise tourism has on the City, bringing thousands of people to eThekwin's shores.**

tourism industry growth.

As part of the key milestones for cruise tourism, there was a total of 88 cruise liners which docked in Durban from November 2023 until May 2024 which was the close of the cruise season.

Durban came under the spotlight when President

Cyril Ramaphosa officially inaugurated the Nelson Mandela Cruise Terminal in November 2023 ahead of the opening of the cruise season. The 6 000sqm, energy-efficient cruise terminal can handle 4 000 passengers a day. This project created 10 000 construction jobs.

# ESTABLISHMENT OF WORLD TRADE CENTRE AT DURBAN ICC



**The Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre will establish a World Trade Centre.**

ETHEKWINI Municipality is set to establish a World Trade Centre at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC) as part of its efforts to foster innovation, economic growth, job creation, and improve service delivery. The ICC is ideally positioned

to hold the World Trade Centre license, reinforcing its status as Africa's leading venue for meetings and conferences. This was presented at the recently held Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting. The World Trade Centre initiative supports

Durban's vision of becoming a gateway to Africa and a key global hub for trade and investment. The acquisition of the World Trade Centre license, costing approximately R5.8 million, will enhance Durban's competitiveness by attracting foreign direct investment, stimulating job creation, and fostering skills development.

Committee Chairperson Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "The success of World Trade Centres in major global cities highlights the strategic importance of such initiatives. By joining this prestigious network, Durban will gain exclusive rights to use the World Trade Centre logo and access a global network of over 300 centres across nearly 100 countries."

## NORTH REGIONAL DURBAN BUSINESS FAIR TAKES PLACE

ETHEKWINI Municipality is set to host the North Regional Durban Business Fair from 28 to 30 March at the Bridge City Shopping Centre in KwaMashu. The third Regional Fair for the 2024/25 financial year will feature 150 businesses showcasing their products and services. The fair offers a platform for networking, business growth, empowerment, and collaboration. The exhibition will run simultaneously with the two-day Business Indaba which will explore key industry trends and provide valuable business information and opportunities. The Construction Development Indaba segment will kick off the exhibition on 28 March, bringing together established companies, agencies, and entrepreneurs to present opportunities for emerging businesses.

The focus will then shift to the Women's Economic Empowerment Engagement on 29 March, with discussions centered around how women can empower each other through mentorship, networking, and collaboration. The fair will also serve as an important hub for presenting international opportunities such as imports and exports, with the confirmation of the Junior International Chamber.

To reserve a spot at the Construction Development Business Indaba or the Women Economic Empowerment Engagement email: [zamani.shezi@durban.gov.za](mailto:zamani.shezi@durban.gov.za) or call 031 311 4500.



# WESTDOWN DEVELOPMENT BRINGS BENEFITS

SIGNIFICANT progress has been made on the Kassier Road upgrade since it began. By 27 March when Westown Square opens, the new road will be fully open with four lanes of traffic from the Cliffdale/Engen intersection to Westown, with access roads in and out of the precinct also completed. Providing an upgraded and more efficient road network is one of Westown's key development outcomes. The public is urged to exercise caution and patience while construction is underway. The road upgrade is a key example of how the public benefits from catalytic projects, such as the development of Westown Square. While this is the first phase of the development, the road

infrastructure is now in place for further investment in the area. Westown Square is the first phase of the new economic hub for Durban's Outer West that is set to generate some R15 billion in investment over the next 10 to 15 years, create 15 000 construction jobs, 8 500 permanent jobs and significantly contribute to the growth of the local tourism sector and that of eThekweni. Further mixed-use development and investment in the region that includes a residential estate, hospital, business and commercial parks are on the cards for the area. EThekweni Municipality has invested R600 million in infrastructure development and upgrades for the Westown catalytic project.



**The progress to upgrade Kassier Road is nearly complete. The road was upgraded due to the Westown development taking place in the Outer West Region.**

This catalytic project is supported by the Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development,

Tourism and Environmental Affairs, and national government.

## BUSINESS INCUBATION TRAINING GETS UNDERWAY

THE KwaMashu Furniture Technology Centre Trust (Furntech), supported by the City's Economic Development and Planning Unit, is conducting a six-month business incubation skills development opportunity in the furniture sector. This forms part of initiatives to address unemployment. Selected candidates will participate in NQF Level 2 Skills Development and Business Incubation programmes. The programme's recruitment session took place in February with 109 applications received, with 85 applicants meeting the requirements. The entrepreneurial boot camp session, which was

the second phase of the selection process, then took place. Of the 57 participants who completed the boot camp, 20 were selected for the training programme. The programme assists small business entrepreneurs in the woodworking and furniture industries survive start-up periods and become financially stable. The programme provides training in furniture manufacturing and entrepreneurship skills, enabling entrepreneurs to create a diverse range of furniture and wood products for their businesses.

## RURAL SCHOOLS WORKSHOPPED ON CLIMATE CHANGE

THE City's Climate Change and Biodiversity Management Departments hosted a workshop in partnership with the Department of Education for educators in the Mkhomazi district circuit. The engagement focused on raising awareness and empowering educators on climate change impacts in the eThekweni region with the hope that they will be able to spread the message among learners and inspire action within communities. This is the first in a series of engagements that will take place with various sectors of society. Simiso Bhengu, Senior Climate Change Scientist, said: "We are hosting

these climate change and biodiversity capacity building workshops in traditional communities to begin with. A programme of engagements with various sectors will be implemented over the next few months. What is important about these workshops with educators, is that we present a localised view of climate change and its impacts. We explain how climate change impacts eThekweni making it more real and relatable." Attendees were given information on some of the changes the City faces in this regard. The Durban Climate Change Strategy was also discussed.

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