EXCO REMARKS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, CLLR MXOLISI KAUNDA, 21 FEBRUARY 2023

- Deputy Mayor
- Speaker
- Whip of Council
- Chairpersons of Committees
- EXCO Members
- City Manager and Senior Management
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

This meeting takes place after the reconfiguration of various portfolios in the EXCO. In this regard, let me take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the new members of exco and chairpersons of committees:

- Deputy Mayor, Zandile Myeni who is also the chairperson of Security and Emergency Services
- New Whip of Council: Cllr Snenhlanhla Sishange
- New Chairperson of Economic Development, Planning and Trading Services: Cllr Thembo Ntuli
- New Chairperson of Human Settlements and Infrastructure: Cllr Thabani Miya

We wish the newly appointed leadership well in their new responsibilities. The fact that they are not new in the municipality, they will be able to hit the ground running.

The new EXCO members and chairpersons came at a right time when we have just resuscitated Operation Sukuma Sakhe Mayoral Outreach Programme. Together, we led a team of officials to the Khotho Mkhunya Zone two weeks ago where they were able to see first-hand the challenges that are confronting our communities daily and what needs to be done to accelerate service delivery.

It is important to note that this is the first zone we visited in 2019 when we started this programme in eThekwini. We are pleased to report that some of the service delivery challenges that people raised during our visit have been resolved. These include:

- The building of Sizakala Centre in KwaMakhutha
- The Construction of a pedestrian bridge in Masomini area near Philani Mall which connects Umlazi and KwaMakhutha
- Upgrading of 4 access roads in KwaMakhutha from gravel to tar
- Construction of 50 storm disaster houses

Currently, there are a number of water infrastructure projects that are taking place in the zone to address intermittent water supply in areas such as Folweni, Ngonyameni, KwaMAkhutha, Adams, Nsimbini and Zwelibonvu. This week, we will conduct an oversight visit to these projects to assess the work that has been done.

Still on water challenges, you will recall that few days ago, we intervened at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital after a pipe that supplies water in the hospital and surrounding areas burst, leaving the area without water.

We are pleased to report that Piped water started flowing to Hospital on Sunday following the completion of the construction of the 400mm diameter steel pipeline.

The City’s Water and Sanitation team worked tirelessly on the construction of the pipeline which required re-routing to avoid damage to the South Coast Bridge on Umlaas Canal.

The construction was done parallel to a temporary line which assisted in supplying water to areas such as Glebelands, Mega City and surrounding areas while the permanent pipeline was being constructed.

While work to construct the permanent and temporary connection was underway, nearby affected residents and the hospital were supplied with water through tankers.

In the same area, the municipality is connecting a sewer line that was completely washed away by the floods. We were anticipating completing this

work within nine days. However, heavy rains over the past few days has made it difficult for constructors to connect the pipe as it crosses over the Umlazi river canal. The contractor is on site, and we are confident that this work will be finalised soon.

Colleagues, the city continues to bring basic services to areas that were previously underservices. Last week, we opened a new clinic in Quarry Heights together with our partner, TB HIV CARE. The clinic will offer among others, TB and HIV screening, family planning and psychosocial services.

On Saturday, the municipality handed over a contractor to commernce with the electrification of eKukhanyeni Settlement in Tshelimnyama in ward 15.

This project will benefit 1700 households at a cost of R20 000 per household. The reticulation of the entire area will cost 14 million.

This project forms part of the commitment we made in our budget speech last year that we will electrify 24 settlements this year at an estimated cost of R51m. The settlements include Amatikwe, Mshayazafe, Emmaus and

Bottlebrush. In the previous financial year, the municipality spent R71m to electrify 6000 households in areas such as Uganda, Palmiet, Siyanda, Blackburn, Mpola and Marrianridge.

Colleagues, we are serious about accelerating service delivery in eThekwini and we will not be deterred by those who have decided to embark on a crusade to criticize us instead of providing solutions to the challenges confronting our communities.

As the leadership of the municipality, we are noting the utterances that the former Deputy Mayor Cllr Philani Mavundla constantly makes in his Facebook account. While his accusations against the leadership of the municipality lack substance and truthfulness, we encourage him or any person with tangible evidence that implicates the leadership of this municipality in wrongdoing to approach relevant authorities.

As the Mayor, I am not prepared to engage in mudslinging with leaders of opposition parties as my doors are always open if they wish to engage me on any matter.

With these remarks, let me welcome you to this EXCO meeting and we look forward to fruitful engagements.