Remarks By eThekwini Municipality, Cllr Cyril Xaba At The Council Meeting Of 30 September 2024 On Water Curtailment

- Honourable Speaker
- Honourable Deputy Mayor
- Honourable Whip of Council
- EXCO Members
- Honourable Councillors
- City Manager
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani,

As a city, we have been constantly saying that the demand for water far exceeds supply and we continue to plead with all stakeholders, especially the public, to work with us to address this challenge. This high-water usage can be attributed to, among other things, rapid urbanisation, aging infrastructure which causes water leaks and illegal connections.

It is important to mention that the bulk of water supply to eThekwini Municipality comes from the Umgeni /uThukela Water catchment system.

The average abstraction amount from the System over the past 12 months amounts to 1406.4 Ml/d. This value will have to be reduced to 1287.7Ml/d which is a reduction of 118 Ml/d in order for uMgeni-Uthukela Water Board to meet the conditions of the Water Use Licence of 470 million m3/annum.

This will mean a reduction on the current sales and abstraction volume of 8.4%.

For this reason, the Department of Water and Sanitation has imposed water curtailment on the system which comes into effect on the 10th of October 2024.

The curtailment will be for a period of 12 months and we urge our residents to use water sparingly so that we can assist in reducing this high-level of consumption.

We want to indicate that we did everything in our power to avert this situation by writing to the Department requesting the postponement of the curtailment while we implement measures to save water including non-revenue water. However, we are at the stage where the ultimate goal is to avert a situation where water supply gets depleted from the source.

In ensuring that residents are not adversely affected, the city will be implementing the following interventions:

- Installation of restrictors in water metres to all consumers
- Pressure reduction in the reticulation network
- Metering all unmetered consumers
- Improve turnaround time in repairing leaks and pipe bursts through deployment of ward-based plumbers
- Community education in water conservation
- Disconnection of illegal connections
- Water rationing where demand is too high or exceeds available supply

Once again, we would like to plead with our residents to work with us to save water, not only for now, but also for future generations.

I will now hand over to the Water and Sanitation team to give you more details about the curtailment, its effects, and the interventions we are implementing.

I thank you!