

WATER STARTS FLOWING IN UMLAZI AND SURROUNDING AREAS

PIPED water has started flowing in uMlazi following the completion of a temporary alternative water supply connection.

The City's Water and Sanitation team worked tirelessly to restore water supply following a burst on the 300mm diameter pipe on the South Coast Bridge over the Umlaas Canal.

Head of the Water and Sanitation Unit Ednick Msweli said an alternative supply through a temporary connection was considered to ensure water restoration.

"This is an interim measure while a medium to long term supply line is being re-routed to avoid damage to the bridge. The water supply to uMlazi Mega City, Glebelands Hostel, industries, and surrounding areas was restored on 11 February," he said.

The repairs on the permanent line are expected to be concluded by 16 February.

While work to install an alternative and temporary connection was underway, communities and Prince Mshiyeni Hospital were supplied with water through tankers.

Meanwhile, residents and businesses are informed of water supply restrictions from the Durban Heights and Maphephethi Water Treatment Works on 15 February. This is due to essential work being conducted by Umgeni Water on the aqueduct that supplies raw water to the plant.

The work will involve installing a new DN 700 butterfly valve and associated pipework in a chamber feed to the aqueduct



TOP: EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda conducted a site visit to assess work being done to repair a burst pipe on the South Coast Bridge over the Umlaas Canal.

LEFT: A temporary water pipeline on the South Coast Bridge has been completed and water supply to uMlazi Mega City, Glebelands Hostel, industries, and surrounding areas has been restored.

to allow for pumping system tie-ins.

During the period of work, water supply to the Maphephetheni area will be reduced and higher lying areas may experience limited supply or no water.

The work will begin at 8am on 15 February. Umgeni Water anticipates that this work will be concluded on 17 February

at 10am.

System recovery will occur thereafter.

Residents are requested to use water sparingly to prevent reservoirs from running dry.

Areas supplied by the Northern and Southern Aqueduct as well as Maphephetheni Water Works will have restricted water supply.

For more information regarding

water supply, the public can call the toll-free number on 080 311 1111 or use the eThekweni Water and Sanitation WhatsApp number 073 1483 477. Alternatively, email: Eservices@durban.gov.

The public is thanked for their understanding as the City works to repair and upgrade damaged infrastructure to ensure a steady water supply in the City.

CITY VOWS TO INTENSIFY LAW ENFORCEMENT



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda laid a wreath outside the restaurant where rapper AKA was killed. He said the City will be strengthening law enforcement to ensure safety.

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda has reassured visitors and residents that the City is safe. He said additional measures are being implemented to ensure the safety of all. This comes after popular South African rapper Kiernan 'AKA' Forbes was killed on Florida Road on 10 February. Mayor Kaunda, together with

the City's Executive Committee and senior management, joined members of the Cultural and Creative Industries Federation of South Africa in a prayer and wreath laying session on 13 February. The ceremony was held outside the restaurant where Forbes was killed. During the visit Mayor Kaunda reassured residents, and visitors that the Municipality is

tightening security around the precinct and in other areas in the City.

He said before the incident, the Municipality had plans to beef up security. This included the recruitment of 200 new metro police recruits who joined the City in November last year while the recruitment process for a further 200 officers is underway.

He said further measures include ensuring the Metro Police satellite station on Florida Road is open 24/7 and additional patrol vehicles.

"The installation of CCTV cameras to be linked with police operations is underway. We are also strengthening relations with the South African Police Service, Urban Improvement Precinct, and other institutions to ensure safety. There are also new satellite Metro Police stations at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre and in Inanda. We also have

a Metro Police Bicycle Patrol Unit for increased police visibility," he added.

"We remain committed to intensifying the fight against crime."

Mayor Kaunda conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the Forbes family, friends, and fans.

He hopes the incident will not have a negative impact on the City as well as the restaurant Wish where everything unfolded.

"This pains me as last year I was awarding Wish restaurant under the entrepreneurship category at the Durban Tourism Business Awards, and today the business is affected because of this inhumane incident. However, as a tourist city, we will continue tightening security in around the City especially in key tourism precincts to ensure the safety of residents and visitors so that businesses affected speedily recover."

Operation Khukulula fights illegal connections head on

THE CITY'S Electricity Unit is tackling the scourge of illegal connections, bypassed meters, and vandalism to infrastructure head on through Operation Khukulula. The Unit's Revenue Protection branch decided to modify its core functions and establish a new working system, Operation Khukulula. Revenue Protection's Acting Senior Manager Thulebona Memela said while sweep teams dispatched across the City were effective, they were not winning the war against this crime.

"We decided through Operation Khukulula to merge teams from all regions then conduct major operations one area at a time, removing illegally connected cables and disconnecting by passed

meters. Electricity theft is one of the biggest plagues the City's facing and we owe it to our residents to never concede," said Memela.

While electricity theft is scattered across the City, there are hotspot areas that will be at the top of Operation Khukulula's list. These include Nazareth, Clemont, Mayville, Kwadabeka, Tshelimyama, Dassenhoek, Mpumalanga Township, KwaMashu, Carletonville, Clare Estate, Verulam, oThongathi, La Mercy, Reddy Cliff, Phoenix, Ntuzuma, Emachomeni, Inanda, Kenville, Durban North, Amanzintoti, Queensburgh, Seaview, and Amaoti.

Memela said the current operation seeks to uphold the



Illegal electricity connections continue to plague the City. A concerted effort has been derived to tackle the scourge.

City electricity supply by-laws where under prohibited acts, it states that no person shall tamper or interfere with any meter, supply or service main, main fuse or other electrical

apparatus belonging to Council.

In just a month on the ground, Operation Khukulula has already started yielding positive results.



CITY PRESENTS REVISED APPROACH TO GET GO! DURBAN MOVING

THE CITY is engaging with stakeholders, public transport operators, and communities on a revised service contracting approach to implement the Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) also known as GO!Durban.

The amended approach is known as the Tactical Adjustment Framework which seeks to address the need to be operational. But it also mitigates the areas of misalignments which resulted in the disagreement between the City and the public transport operators.

Head of the eThekweni Transport Authority Thami Manyathi said government has relooked at how all stakeholders are incorporated into the GO!Durban service and also how improved services can be brought to residents much sooner.

“The proposed Tactical Adjustment Framework was approved during a Full Council meeting last year. The framework involves optimising routes and integrating services



Engagements with stakeholders are underway to present the amended approach to implement the Integrated Public Transport Network also known as GO!Durban.

of existing contracts currently running in the City to create one seamless network in line with the IPTN network,” he said.

The physical engagements with the public transport operators started in February. The public is invited to comment on the Tactical Adjustment Framework until 22 February.

“All stakeholders are

encouraged to access the revised document and make their comments,” he said.

Copies of the document are available at Sizakala Centres, libraries and online on the City’s website www.durban.gov.za.

Comments and inputs can be emailed to info@godurban.co.za

Explaining how the revised approach will affect the current

service, Manyathi said they will be service design and service feature improvements across all services in the City.

“Routes, timetables and schedules will be reviewed for inefficiencies and adjustments made accordingly, as well as the improvements of service features such as integrated automated fare payments and customer care,” Manyathi concluded.

COMMENT ON 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT

THE DRAFT 2021/22 Annual Report was tabled by Council on 31 January 2023. The City is now embarking on a public consultation process to discuss the tabled report and to receive comments from the public.

The report highlights some of the key achievements and challenges experienced over the last financial year.

The Annual Report is available on the Municipal website www.durban.gov.za and can be viewed electronically at the City Hall, City libraries and Sizakala Centres.

Comments must be submitted by 17 March.

The 2021/22 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan performance of the City regarding the provision of basic services such as water and sanitation, electricity and refuse removal is 56.25 percent.

Commenting on the report, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said although there were challenges relating to budget cuts, the City managed to provide basic services to residents.

“Despite challenges including

the COVID-pandemic, the civil unrest in 2021, and the floods last year which resulted in the loss of lives and livelihoods, damage to infrastructure and impacted the economy in the 2021/22 financial year, we continued to make great progress in improving the lives of eThekweni residents. However, while strides have been made in several areas, much still needs to be done to ensure that there is adequate water and electricity supply in the Municipality.

Another area of great concern is cleanliness and the creation

of a safe environment for residents and businesses to thrive,” he said.

He said it is important to note that in the past five years the population of eThekweni Municipality has increased by over 25 percent. Therefore, apart from being a municipality that is over 60 percent rural, the City also faces the challenge of rapid urbanisation.

This puts a significant strain on resources since the provision of quality services becomes an ever-moving target.



LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTS IN INFORMAL TRADERS



CEO of KZN Oils Esayvanie Reddy, KZN Oils staff and informal traders stand in front of the recently renovated stalls. The company upgraded the space for informal traders.

THE RAJEN Reddy Group (RR Group), a KwaZulu-Natal oil company based on Chris Hani Road, recently launched a project to give back to informal traders in the area.

The project saw the renovation of the informal trader's workspace. The implementation saw the installation and painting of a canopy, shelter, concrete

tables, concrete blocks, and walls. Storage was also provided.

Approval from eThekweni Municipality for the renovations was sought.

Esayvanie Reddy, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the RR Group said this project was launched to continue the work of her late husband Rajen Reddy who cared for people.

"The informal traders were important to him; he had been supporting them for years.

Years ago, he built toilets for the informal traders because they did not have any ablution facilities. He then built a container for them to store their belongings," she said.

She added: "I am so happy and proud of what the company has done for the

informal traders. I would also like to thank eThekweni Municipality for approving this project and for toilets the City provided. As a company it is important for us to give back."

Sipho Magwaza, an informal trader, thanked KZN Oils and eThekweni Municipality.

"We have a beautiful space to trade from," he said.

Durban ICC supplier day equips small businesses

TO ASSIST small businesses develop, the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) invited hundreds of small, medium, and micro enterprises to its Supplier Day seminar held at the Durban Exhibition Centre recently.

The event saw small businesses owners coming together to gain knowledge on procurement opportunities that are currently available at the Durban ICC.

The facility announced that it will expand its current supplier database and promote inclusivity in the marketplace. Business owners listened to presentations from the SA Bureau of Standards, eThekweni Municipality, and the Durban ICC on compliance with supply chain management (SCM) policy.

During the informative seminar, entrepreneurs were informed about various business opportunities



A Supplier Day was held to equip emerging business owners with compliance information.

available. They were also educated on the City's SCM policies and processes which they need to comply with to qualify for work opportunities. Thenashree Naidoo, Durban ICC Supply Chain and Compliance Manager said the facility has a competitive tender process, adding that they were committed to empowering small businesses and ensuring that they operate in a responsible manner. Naidoo said the Durban ICC is always in need of suppliers who can provide a variety of services.

Pearl Mkhize, who owns a

bakery, learnt the importance of complying as a business especially in terms of the Food Act. "As small businesses we sometimes don't realise the importance of compliance. We appreciate such events because they allow us the opportunity to get our documents in order," said Mkhize.

Potential service providers were also taught about business etiquette when they receive a Municipal tender. The issue of being professional by delivering goods and services on time was emphasised.

CITY'S PEOPLE MOVER BUS FARE INCREASE

AN ANNUAL fare increase of R1 for the People Mover bus will come into effect from 5 March 2023.

A report was tabled and approved during a Full Council meeting held on 13 December last year. This report outlined that the increase is part of the contract which stipulates that fares must be reviewed and increased annually in keeping with inflation and to ensure operating services are maintained.

EThekweni Transport Authority Head Thami Manyathi said: "The increase is inevitable as operating costs escalate each year. However, the City has tried to ensure only a minimal increase is implemented".

Pensioners, scholars, and those with disabilities still have access to reduced fares in line with the increase.

For further information visit www.muvo.co.za, check on Facebook. [com/GoDurban](https://www.facebook.com/GoDurban) or Twitter @Go_Durban / @MuvoCard

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR: Lindiwe Khuzwayo, Head of Communications • **CONTENT EDITOR:** Nondumiso Mathomane • **SUB-EDITOR:** Charmel Payet • **CONTRIBUTORS:** Siphlelele Buthelezi, Sibongakonke Mbatha, Luthando Ngubane, Nonduduzo Ngongo, Vuyani Dimba, and Zimbili Mazibuko • **PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Pumla Khwela • **DESIGN & LAYOUT:** Ayurdha Deonarain

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

Email: news.desk@durban.gov.za