

USA-BASED BUSINESS LEADERS CONFIDENT ABOUT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN DURBAN

THE economy of eThekweni Municipality has received a major shot-in-the-arm after investors and captains of industry from various sectors in the United States of America (USA) pledged new future investment.

This follows a series of strategic engagements which are being held in the USA led by Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli.

This is a welcome boost for the City and an overwhelming vote of confidence in the economic fundamentals which define Durban as a conducive and favourite investment destination.

As part of the investment promotion process embarked on by the City, engagements are underway with business leaders and discussions are centred around trade and investment opportunities in various sectors.

The overarching message delivered by eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele is that 'Durban is open for business'.

The engagement appraised the USA-based business leaders of Durban's value proposition where Mbhele presented Durban's Investment Book and reinforced the City's position as an attractive business, investment and tourism destination.

Addressing the delegates in New York during the reSURGE investment power breakfast session and activation, Mbhele said: "We are here to cement linkages between Durban and USA-based investors



eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele engages with the President and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Randy Peers and Publisher of The New York Christian Times and Convenor of reSURGE Reverend Dennis Dillon.

and businesses. We invite you to work with us, invest with us, reap the enormous benefits that will flow out of this reSURGE Conference, which will be held in Durban from 17 to 21 July 2024."

Mbhele highlighted some of the high-impact catalytic projects underway in Durban such as the Dube Trade Port

and Whetstone development, which has an investment value of R54 billion and will create 214 100 jobs.

"New York has a USD 229 billion budget and over USD 1 trillion in pension funds and they are looking to maximise on investment opportunities outside of their country. As the City, we want

to forge partnerships where our local investors also exploit opportunities in the USA market," said Mbhele.

The activations and engagements are a precursor to the reSURGE Conference taking place at the Durban ICC from 17 to 21 July 2024.

DURBAN READY TO HOST ICONIC HOLLYWOODBETS DURBAN JULY

DURBAN'S tourism and hospitality industry is abuzz with excitement as preparations intensify for the highly anticipated Hollywoodbets Durban July experience taking place on 6 July at the Greyville Racecourse.

This year's theme for Africa's greatest horse racing event is "Ride The Wave".

Besides the exhilarating horse racing contests, the Durban July will also include a fashion showcase, with upcoming and established fashion designers featuring prominently. The fashion programme has three categories, including Young Designers, Durban Fashion Fair Rising Stars and Invited Designer Showcase featuring fashion displays by South Africa's top designers.

The Hollywoodbets Durban July experience is known for generating substantial revenue



Winchester Mansion with jockey Kabelo Matsunyane who took the spoils at the 2023 Hollywoodbets Durban July race.

for the City, which has positive spin-offs for the economy of Durban. This year will be no different.

According to economic impact estimates, more than 45 000 punters and revellers are expected at the event. The direct spend is estimated at R270 thousand, with a total of R669 thousand contribution

to the eThekweni GDP. The total number of jobs to be created around the Durban July activities are estimated to be 1 207.

As Durban is also Africa's Events and Festival leading destination, the City will partner with several events as part of Council-approved destination promotion

leveraging partnerships. The side activities include Fact Durban Rocks, Mother of All Parties, Mojo's July Weekend, Any Given Sunday, EThekweni Jazz Jam, Ekasi Durban July, Artizen Durban July, Anywhere in the City and White Party Lifestyle Excursion.

EThekweni Municipality Deputy Chairperson of Economic Development and Planning Committee, Councillor Phili Ndlovu said: "We are looking forward to the event and to welcome punters and visitors from all over the country and world. This is one of the City's anchor events, which generates massive profits and boost businesses." Councillor Ndlovu said the Municipality will once again prioritise safety. "It is for this reason that our Metro Police and other law enforcement agencies are working together to rollout safety plans."

FINES TO BE IMPOSED FOR UNREMOVED ELECTION POSTERS



POLITICAL parties and independent candidates in the eThekweni Municipal area have five days left to remove all election posters.

A fine will be imposed if the election material is not removed by 30 June 2024. This is subsequent to the Council decision taken in December last year advising

political parties to remove election posters or be fined R1 193 per poster by the Municipality.

Political parties must remove posters within 30 days after the date of the elections. This is according to the Council decision regarding political posters. The Development Planning Environment

and Management Unit is responsible for the regulation of outdoor advertising in the Municipality among other responsibilities. During the election period, consideration was given to relaxing some of the requirements in the spirit of promoting democracy.

Sagren Naicker, Acting Manager for General Advertising in the Development Planning Unit said political parties or candidates were allowed up to 800 posters per ward. "Should political parties fail to remove posters during the stipulated period the Municipality will issue a fine based on the number of posters," said Naicker.

He said this also applies to political parties that were given permission to advertise on the highways and the beachfront.

"We are strict in implementing advertising by-laws within the Municipal area. No one is allowed to erect any advertisement without prior permission from our unit," he said.

Emphasising the need for election poster removal, eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele said: "We are governed by a Council resolution regarding the removal of election posters. This will also assist to keep the City clean, as some posters have been blown off street poles while others are hanging precariously," he said.

Mbhele urged political parties to comply with the City's by-laws which are promulgated by the Municipality. "The resolution is clear, posters should be removed 30 days after the elections," said Mbhele.



KZN SUPPLY CHAIN CONFERENCE PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND RESILIENCE



Officials from the City's Supply Chain Management Unit and Smart Procurement World with eThekweni Deputy Mayor, Councillor Zandile Myeni at the KZN Supply Chain Conference currently underway at the Durban ICC.

is on emerging technologies that will shape the future of supply chain management in KwaZulu-Natal and beyond the region. The exhibition-running alongside the conference- will showcase the latest products, services, tools and technologies shaping today's most efficient supply chains.

Acting Head for the City's Supply Chain Management Unit, Sbo Ncube-Dlamini explained: "This conference demonstrates the strategic role of procurement and supply chain management as an enabler for inclusive and sustainable economic growth within the KZN region, despite the turbulent and unpredictable socio-economic climate."

Ncube-Dlamini added: "Inter-connected, resilient, responsive and transparent supply chains are crucial for economies, businesses and communities to survive and thrive. We are very impressed by the discussions thus far."

KWAZULU-NATAL'S largest supply chain and procurement conference is currently taking place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre. It has returned to Durban after four years and carries a strong theme of "Strengthening Infrastructure

and Manufacturing Supply Chains for Future Growth." The conference is hosted by eThekweni Municipality, in partnership with Smart Procurement World and brings together stakeholders committed to enhancing the region's infrastructure and

manufacturing capabilities to drive sustainable growth and enable supply chain resilience. The conference enables industry leaders, experts and stakeholders to share, explore and develop innovative strategies and best practices. Additionally, a great focus area

CHINA EMPORIUM DEMOLITION PROCEEDING WELL

THE demolition of the fire-ravaged China Emporium on Dr Pixley Ka Seme Street is proceeding well, with half the building having been brought down. The work is expected to be completed by September, and road closure of Brook Street will remain in place until it is safe to remove the barriers.

The demolition, which began on 26 April, is being done mechanically to prevent damage to neighbouring buildings.

This follows a legal battle with property owners, Zoloscure Investments who had failed to demolish the building in accordance with a court order. The demolition adds to the list of 30



The mechanical demolition of the China Emporium is proceeding well and is expected to be complete by September.

successes that the Problem Buildings Division has had since its establishment in 2019. This includes seven

demolitions. Property owners are urged to work with the City to restore their buildings.

BID FOR VEHICLES AT ONLINE AUCTION

ETHEKWINI Municipality, in partnership with Auction Specialist, are currently holding the City's 10th online auction. A variety of vehicles, trailers and plant equipment are on offer to bid and purchase. All members of the public are invited.

Viewing and registration is currently underway until 26 June at the Ottawa Depot; 2000 Old North Coast Road, Ottawa.

The bidding on items will take place on 27 and 28 June. A R10 000 deposit per vehicle must be paid upon registration. Officials are on site to assist with any queries.

The online brochure and more information can be accessed on www.auctionspecialist.co.za.



NEW STALLS FOR UMHLANGA TRADERS

THERE were smiles all around when eighteen informal traders received new stalls in Lagoon Drive, uMhlanga. The traders were displaced during the development of the Oceans Mall. The ecstatic traders received their stalls earlier this month.

Co-funded by the City and the Oceans Development, the stalls are lockable with shelves to display their goods. Water and electricity will be installed soon. Traders will be able to ply their trade from the comfort of an enclosed trading space.

Informal Trade Area Manager, Zinhle Nkwanyana, said: "We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the informal traders development trading facility at uMhlanga Lagoon Drive. The traders are thrilled to be the new tenants of this facility, which brings a renewed sense of dignity to

those who have been operating in challenging conditions for years."

The handover is part of the City's ongoing concerted efforts to support the informal trade sector, which continues to contribute revenue into the City's economy, while creating employment.

In the last financial year, the sector contributed R3 billion to the City's coffers and created an impressive 40 000 jobs. The City realises that often the income earned from informal trade is usually the only means of survival for the thousands of families. It is with this in mind that the City continuously strives to create a conducive environment for traders.

As part of the Inner-city Regeneration Strategy, the City is investigating new ways to accommodate and provide support for the increasing informal trade sector.



Eighteen informal traders recently received new stalls in Lagoon Drive, uMhlanga. This is part of the City's effort to support the informal trade sector.

It is against this backdrop that the City will, on 27 June, host the next Inner-city Regeneration Town Talk on this important topic and would love to hear your views. Join us for a

discussion that delves into plans for informal trade. The event will be held at the ITrump Hall, Stratford Road, Warwick Junction from 1-4pm. RSVP: [click here to join the meeting](#)

PRESIDENTIAL WORKING GROUP TRACKS PROGRESS ON TURNAROUND ACTION PLAN



Eight working groups have been set up to ensure the implementation of the action plan to address challenges and the turnaround strategy for eThekweni Municipality. Pictured above is the working group for the transport infrastructure.

FOLLOWING the establishment of the Presidential eThekweni Working Group, the Presidency's Project Management Unit has undertaken the first

monitoring visit to eThekweni Municipality to track progress on the implementation of agreed interventions.

The working group is chaired by a representative the

Presidency and co-chaired by director generals of various national departments, including eThekweni Deputy City Managers.

The Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry is part of this partnership and has been actively mobilising business and other social partners to get involved. Eight workstreams have been established to implement targets identified when the Working Group was launched in April. These intergovernmental workstreams sit weekly to report progress in the adopted 24-month Action Plan.

The workshop on 20 to 21 June focused on the review

of current action plans, identified actions requiring collaboration and unblocking of key development issues in the areas.

Top of the list from the workshop outcomes was effective partnering with local business to implement the action plan calling for improved framework on public-private partnerships towards building effective and strategic project management capabilities. Matters of water provision, addressing safety and security, tackling homelessness, tourism revitalisation and economic infrastructure investment were highlighted as matters requiring urgent turnaround implementation plans.

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