

CONTINUED ASSISTANCE FOR DISPLACED OTHONGATHI RESIDENTS



eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda led a delegation to provide relief interventions to those affected by the tornado in oThongathi. This included distributing food parcels, blankets, building materials, and offering healthcare services.

In the aftermath of the severe winds and heavy rains that struck oThongathi on 3 June, the KwaZulu-Natal government and eThekweni Municipality remain dedicated to providing assistance to displaced families and fast-tracking the restoration of services.

Around 13 232 people were affected with 3 359 homes damaged. There were eight reported deaths and 99 injuries recorded.

Affected families were relocated to temporary shelters where they are provided with hot meals three times a day together with other essential necessities.

eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda led a delegation to provide relief interventions in the oThongathi area on 7 June, which was the hardest hit.

This included distributing food parcels, blankets, building materials, and offering healthcare services to affected residents.

Mayor Kaunda applauded the active involvement of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government, under the leadership of Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube, to provide continued assistance to the community of oThongathi. "Our immediate priorities included clearing debris and fallen trees to enable our teams and organisations that provide humanitarian aid to deliver assistance and restore essential services. After preliminary assessments were conducted, we relocated affected families to temporary shelters. Today we were focused on distributing critical supplies," said Mayor Kaunda.

He said collaborative efforts

with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) resulted in 1 700 blankets and 1 300 mattresses also distributed.

Electricity infrastructure was also severely damaged when the tornado ravaged oThongathi and surrounding areas. Restoration work is currently underway in the northern parts of the City, which were significantly impacted by the storms.

Affected areas include Burbreeze, Sandfields, Greylands, eMagwaveni, Maidstone, and La Mercy. Electricity teams have restored power supply to most of areas in Fairbreeze, Sandfields, Jan Roz, and Burbreeze.

Temporary arrangements are still in place for a continuous supply of electricity. Although work is in progress, the full repair of infrastructure has not

yet been completed with most of the major substations yet to be repaired.

Teams are however addressing significant lower voltage and medium voltage repairs in Magwaveni which could take between two to four weeks to fully restore. This is because individual properties may not be ready to connect due to damage that occurred.

Debris has been cleared and close to 512 fallen trees have been removed from roads.

SASSA and the Department of Home Affairs are on site assisting with lost documentation.

The City has thanked humanitarian organisations for providing assistance and donations during this time. Donors are requested to drop off donated goods at the Tongaat Sports Centre to allow for a coordinated distribution.

COMRADES MARATHON BRINGS ECONOMIC BOOST

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said this year's Comrades Marathon is expected to boost the City's economy with a direct spend of over R208 million. The Gross Domestic Product contribution is anticipated to be R515 million with 934 employment opportunities created. Hotel occupancy was at 78 percent in the City.

The City co-hosted the 97th Comrades Marathon on 9 June with the race starting outside the Durban City Hall and ending at the Scottsville Racecourse in Pietermaritzburg. The race was just over 85km and saw over 20 000 athletes participating.

Police visibility was heightened in all affected intersections within the Municipal boundary to ensure the safety of runners and spectators.

The winner of the 'Ultimate Human Race' was Piet Wiersma from the Netherlands, who completed the race in 5 hours and 25 minutes while the women's winner was South African Gerda Steyn who smashed her



Co-hosting the Comrades Marathon made a significant economic impact on the City, with a hotel occupancy rate of 78 percent and a direct spend of R208 million.

own record by 10 minutes and finished in 5 hours and 49 minutes.

Mayor Kaunda said the City was proud to co-host the Comrades Marathon and congratulated the winners and all the participants. "Durban

is a destination of choice for major events, and we have proved our mettle once again. Events of this magnitude provides exposure to national and international media platforms which furthers profiles destination Durban."

A pre and post-race clean-up was done by the Municipality and tourism stakeholders after the Comrades, cementing the City's dedication to ensuring a clean environment as well as revitalising the tourism sector.

SHESHISA PROGRAMME EMPOWERS FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

INNOVATE Durban recently launched their Women in Business Accelerator programme, SHESHisa. Supported by the City's Economic Development Unit, the SHESHisa programme is a six-month accelerator initiative designed specifically for women entrepreneurs based in Durban. The programme offers mentorship and guidance to help selected women entrepreneurs propel their businesses forward and thrive as female founders.

From a pool of 251 applicants, 20 women business owners were chosen to participate in the programme, highlighting the

high level of interest among women entrepreneurs keen to make their mark and contribute to local economic development. Candidates were selected through an internal adjudication process, prioritising those who had not previously participated in any entrepreneurship support or accelerator programme.

This approach ensures that the entrepreneurs who would benefit most from the programme's support are those who have yet to receive similar opportunities. Additionally, the selection criteria focused on the nature of the businesses, favouring those with tangible products



Innovate Durban launched the Women in Business Accelerator programme, SHESHisa which empowers female entrepreneurs.

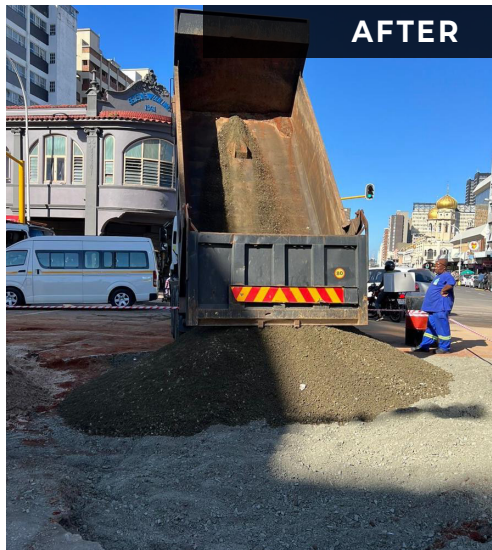
to showcase.

The SHESHisa programme aims to extend far beyond classroom learning by equipping entrepreneurs to tackle the unique challenges faced by women business owners. The programme covers several modules such

as leadership development, finance, wellness, brand development, ethical leadership, and networking. For more information about the programme, contact Innovate Durban on 087 365 3131 or email info@innovate.durban



CITY EXPEDIATES CBD SINKHOLE REPAIR



THE CITY worked swiftly to isolate and repair a major underground water pipe burst that occurred on Dr Yusuf Dadoo Street in the Durban Central Business District causing a sinkhole. After the road is backfilled, a team from the Roads Department will tar the affected area.

THE BUSINESS OF FILM: A MAJOR ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTOR

AS a principal funder of the Durban FilmMart (DFM), eThekweni Municipality, through the Durban Film Office, acknowledges that the film industry is not merely a cultural pursuit for artists and auteurs but a significant economic driver. In 2021, the National Film and Video Foundation projected that the film industry would contribute R7.18 billion to the local economy.

Entering this industry requires careful consideration. Traditional models of film financing, production, marketing, distribution, and revenue collection have been radically transformed by the advent of streaming services and social media content creators.

These changes have lowered entry barriers, welcomed new players, and sparked a second growth cycle through heightened innovation. As traditional production studios compete with content creators for audience engagement, the market now thrives on

innovative approaches to film financing, production, and distribution.

This opportunity is further enhanced by a global demand for African content. As Africans in the diaspora achieve greater economic stability and feel a longing for home, there is a growing demand for authentic African stories from an audience willing and able to pay for them.

Businesses outside the traditional film industry have lucrative opportunities to enter the sector. The DFM serves as the ideal entry point for those considering film finance and production opportunities. As the economic heartbeat of the African film industry, DFM is where the business of film is explored and evolved.

For 15 years, DFM has created significant opportunities for financiers and producers to connect, converse, and contract. The market showcases African filmmaking talent and fosters the development and global integration of African film



professionals. In 2023, DFM attracted participants from 43 countries, with an audience of 4 092 over four days – the largest gathering of film professionals on the African continent. The 2024 edition is poised to surpass this success.

The 2024 edition of DFM themed 'African Visions Unleashed: From Disruption to Accountability' will take place in Durban from 19 to 22 July 2024. High-profile panellists will explore crucial issues such as social accountability, intellectual property rights, workplace equality, and environmental concerns related to film production.

CITYWIDE EMPLOYMENT EQUITY PROGRESS

ETHEKWINI Municipality is steadily achieving its Employment Equity (EE) targets. The latest figures for the 2023/2024 financial year show that the City has almost achieved its set targets. The EE Successive Plan 2022-2024 will end on 30 June 2024. A new plan will then be in place from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026.

The below statistics show the progress made on the EE targets set for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Progress of females in the top 3 occupational levels.

- Top management – 82%
- Senior management – 100% and over
- Professionally qualified – 87%

Progress of people with disabilities on the top 3 occupational levels – 75%

Deputy City Manager of the Corporate and Human Capital Cluster Kim Makhathini said the City is committed to workplace transformation. Makhathini said aside from addressing the mindset change in gender equality, more aggressive strategies must be implemented to advance the EE Act's (EEA) transformation goals.

The EEA came into effect in 1998 to promote equal opportunity and fair treatment in employment through the elimination of unfair discrimination. The EE Office is responsible for the overall championing and coordination of EE on behalf of eThekweni City Manager.

The EE Office ensures that the work environment is diverse and inclusive as prescribed by the EEA and EE Plan.

Head of the Human Capital Unit Sihle Mkhize explained that the EE Office not only advises on EE related issues, but also develops and implements strategies to eliminate barriers that hinder transformation.



REWARDING EXCELLENCE IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

THE 2024 Durban Automotive Cluster (DAC) Accelerator Dragons' Den event was inaugurated by the City's Deputy Head of Industry Development Programmes Takalani Ratiyaya.

This initiative underscores the Municipality's commitment to fostering localisation, enhancing regional infrastructure, and building a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

eThekweni aims to empower economic decision-makers and stakeholders by supporting an export-oriented economy and sustainable value chains.

The accelerator programme, which was launched in February this year, focuses on nurturing high-potential Black small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

It does this by positioning them as key suppliers to leading enterprises through market access interventions, standards upgrading, and capital investment.

The accelerator programme aligns with eThekweni's



The City's Economic Development Unit awarded the Durban Automotive Cluster business accelerator SMEs cheques worth R55 000 to help support and grow their businesses.

initiatives to support the local automotive industry, focusing on SME upliftment and upgrading. It adheres to B-BBEE codes of good practice, benefiting both SMEs and larger cluster member firms, promoting positive commercial and transformative outcomes.

Ratiyaya said the 2024 Dragons' Den focus remains on expanding opportunities that prioritise local involvement, fosters

employment growth, and stimulates economic development.

The Municipality and DAC collaborate to enhance market access, transformation, and competitiveness in the local automotive sector, hosting over 70 manufacturing companies and large corporations.

Three SMEs were awarded R50 000 to support their businesses. Ernemous Investments, a manufacturer of polyurethane and pressure-

sensitive adhesive products, was awarded R15 000 for Best Industry Game Changer. Sizundawo Engineering, an electrical installation and maintenance service provider, was awarded R15 000 for Best Environmental Sustainability.

Sirius Manufacturing, a tool, jig design, and metal press stamping component manufacturer, received the highest award of R25 000.

GREEN CORRIDORS HOSTED SUCCESSFUL ETHEKWINI ENVIRO WEEK

GREEN CORRIDORS successfully hosted two significant events last week as part of eThekweni Enviro Week, which ran from 1 to 9 June. This initiative, organised by the eThekweni Environmental Education and Public Awareness Network, aimed to raise awareness about environmental issues, coinciding with World Environment Day on 5 June and World Oceans Day on 8 June.

On 5 June, a community event at Inanda Wilderness Park brought together community members, schools,

stewardship organisations, and traditional healers. Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed engaging sessions where traditional healers shared their extensive knowledge of plants and herbs, fostering a day of community learning and exploration.

On 7 June, Green Corridors held a World Oceans Day ceremony in the Ohlange Catchment Area. Learners from nearby areas participated in depositing environmentally beneficial "dumplings" into the polluted tributaries of the Ohlange River. These

dumplings, containing microorganisms, are designed to help decontaminate the rivers before they reach the ocean. This ceremony highlighted the importance of maintaining clean waterways and protecting ocean health, reinforcing the commitment to environmental stewardship and community involvement.

Green Corridors continues to build partnerships with local businesses and corporations to improve river and ocean health, striving to restore the Blue Flag status of regional beaches.



A community event at Inanda Wilderness Park brought together community members, schools, stewardship organisations, and traditional healers as part of eThekweni Enviro Week celebrations.

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