

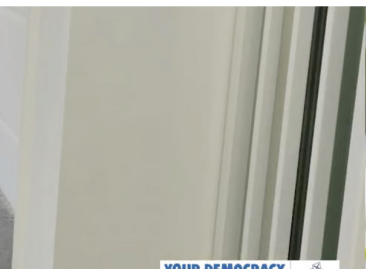
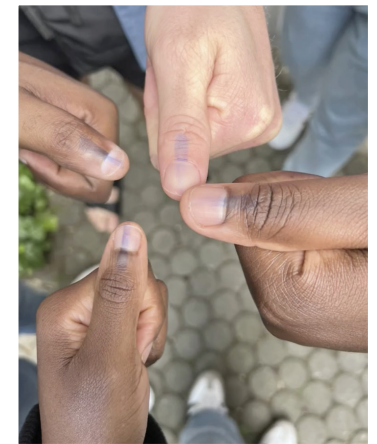
SERVICE DELIVERY UNDERWAY TO ENSURE SMOOTH ELECTIONS

IT'S ALL systems go to ensure a smooth and incident free general election on 29 May 2024. There is only a day left before the national and provincial elections gets underway and eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda has urged residents to come out in their numbers to exercise their democratic right to vote as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa. Mayor Kaunda has issued a directive, through eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele, that all service delivery units must be on high alert to ensure that there are no service delivery disruptions on election day. "We have also put rapid response mechanisms in place to respond to service delivery issues that may arise," said Mayor Kaunda. This includes cutting grass at Municipal halls and fields which will be used as voting stations. Marquees that will be used as voting stations were also electrified.

Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Regional Outreach Officer Malusi Msomi said they are ready to ensure a smooth and safe election. All voting stations will be open from 7am to 9pm on the day. "We have trained about 13 000 staff who will be responsible for special votes management, voting station management, area managers, and for the counting of votes," said Msomi.

He said there are 864 voting stations in the eThekweni Municipality area.

Voters must carry their green-bar-coded identity document, smart card identity document or a temporal identity



The City is lending the necessary support to the Independent Electoral Commission to ensure a smooth and incident free general election tomorrow, 29 May.

document certificate to access the voting station and to be allowed to vote.

Msomi said voting stations will have a billboard depicting three ballot papers to educate voters on what to expect inside the voting station.

There are 52 political parties who will be competing on the national ballot paper.

"Voters who have been granted a special vote permit will be allowed to vote on 27 and 28 May from 9am to 5pm. Voters who carry dangerous weapons and other objects will not be allowed to gain access to the voting station," he said.

Metro Police Spokesperson Boysie Zungu said they are working closely with the South African Police Service to maintain peace and order around voting stations on the day. Meanwhile, the City's Community Participation and Action Support Unit together with the IEC conducted civic voter education campaigns in Amanzimtoti, uMlazi, KwaMashu, oThongathi, Kloof, and Wiggins recently.

Chairperson of the Governance and Human Capital Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala said voter education is crucial to help residents understand

how to vote so that their votes do not get spoiled.

"Over the past three decades, considerable progress has been made to improve the lives of those who suffered under colonialism and apartheid. We urge all registered voters to exercise their right to vote. The freedom and rights we enjoy today were hard won through the sacrifices of many brave compatriots. Let us honour their legacy by participating in this crucial democratic process. Every vote counts in shaping the future of our nation," said Councillor Madlala.

MAYOR KAUNDA LAUNCHES R52 MILLION UMBHAYI HOUSING PROJECT

IN A step towards achieving the Municipality’s target of addressing the housing backlog in the City, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda launched the R52 million uMbhayi Housing Project in oThongathi, north of Durban on 23 May.

The project, an informal settlement upgrade, will yield 779 double story, row housing units upon completion and represents a significant step towards addressing the housing backlog in the City.

Mayor Kaunda said the Municipality has been building formal houses which has restored the dignity and brought comfort to many residents.

“This project will see the dream of hundreds of beneficiaries of owning their own home become a reality.

The construction of these fully subsidised homes will unfold in three phases and we expect that the project should be completed by April 2027,” said Mayor Kaunda.

He said another added benefit was the skills transfer as well as local businesses benefitting from opportunities presented by the project. This includes construction, insourcing, and the production of building materials.

“Also, our targeted drive to eradicate transit camps by 2026 has seen 300 families from the Isiphingo Transit Camp relocate to the newly built Kanku Road Housing Project. To give security of tenure, more than 500 title deeds were issued last year giving property and home ownership to the poor,” concluded Mayor Kaunda.



The community welcomed the launch of the R52 million uMbhayi Housing Project by eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda.

CITY ENGAGES BUILT ENVIRONMENT SPECIALISTS

THE City engaged with the KwaZulu-Natal Institute of Architects and South African Planners Institute (KZNIA) recently regarding the Inner-City Regeneration Strategy as professionals in the built environment who work to shape the City.

The City focused on the Woza Basket initiatives which includes a variety of projects such as the catalytic projects, revitalisation of public spaces, improvement of infrastructure, development of affordable housing, enhancement of public transportation, and the creation of cultural and recreational facilities.

These projects aim to improve the quality of life of residents, boost economic activity, and create a vibrant, inclusive urban environment.

Of special focus was the development of the Durban



A view of the proposed concert venue with a City backdrop. This is part of the proposed Durban Bay Marina development in eThekweni.

Bay Marina which is expected to bring almost a R5 billion investment and create approximately 15 000 jobs during construction alone.

eThekweni Municipality is partnering with Transnet and the KZN Provincial Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Department to transform the Durban Bay Waterfront and

Marina into an economic and tourism asset par excellence.

Still in its inception phase, the development is expected to include as its signature skyline four- and five-star hotels, a museum, an exhibition centre, science centre, retail linear mall, services, apartments, and an African cultural centre.

Driven by eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele, there are 14 work streams as part of the Inner-City Regeneration Strategy. These seek to renew the confidence of business, residents, investors and tourists alike and to provide urgent and lasting solutions to the issues that plague the inner city.

Acting Chief Operations Officer George Mohlakoana said architects and urban planners are essential in ensuring the success of the inner city regeneration by bringing their local knowledge and expertise to the table.

“KZNIA members can contribute by participating in advisory panels, collaborative workshops offering insights during community consultations, and assisting with the adaptation of international best practices to the local context.”



DURBAN FILM OFFICE AWARDS R1.5M IN FUNDING GRANTS

ETHEKWINI Municipality announced the successful awardees of the Durban Film Office (DFO) Micro Budget Film and Development Funds Programmes during a handover event at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 24 May.

The funding programmes nurtures young local talent and highlights the significant economic impact the film and television industry has on the City. This year's 8th cycle marks a milestone with the highest amount of funding awarded.

Senior Manager of the DFO Sharon Gumede said their office supports the film industry by offering grant funding.

She said this provides essential financial support for the production of the film, covering expenses such as equipment rental, location fees, crew salaries, and post-production costs.

"This allows filmmakers to focus on bringing their



The City's Durban Film Office awarded over R1.5 million to five beneficiaries of its Micro Budget Film and Development Fund Programmes recently.

creative vision to life without the burden of financial constraints," she added.

This year's funding includes five grants totalling over R1.5 million. Three recipients of the Micro Budget Film Fund will each receive R350 000 for film production, while two recipients of the Development Fund will each receive R250 000 for script

development and packaging. The beneficiaries are Isilwane Films, Samkelo Dingi, Nasi Production, Sapere Aude (PTY) LTD, and Dream Lab Production. There is a notable focus on supporting youth and female-owned production companies.

Delivering the keynote address was Chairperson of the Economic Development

and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli. He highlighted the pivotal role of the DFO in promoting the City as a premier film destination.

"The DFO has been instrumental in developing and showcasing local talent while positioning Durban as an attractive location for film production. Our commitment to the arts is in line with the National Development Plan, which recognises the creative sector as a key driver of economic growth," said Councillor Ntuli.

He said by supporting local talent through financial incentives, infrastructure, and marketing assistance, the City is fostering the growth of the film industry.

"We are also showcasing the City's vibrant culture and heritage. We urge the beneficiaries to use these funds to grow their businesses and to create impactful local content that will resonate globally," said Councillor Ntuli.

SMME UPLIFTMENT THROUGH REGIONAL HELPDESK ROADSHOWS

ETHEKWINI Municipality invites suppliers with unresolved payment issues to attend the SMME (small, medium, and micro enterprises) Helpdesk regional roadshows to receive urgent

intervention. Suppliers must provide services to the City and have unpaid invoices that are over 30 days.

The SMME Helpdesk roadshows aim to ensure the sustainability of small

businesses through timeous payments. They will be held in various regions from 10 to 14 June.

The SMME Helpdesk roadshow's core aim is to accelerate payment of service

providers and SMMEs.

Staff will offer onsite assistance and solutions during the roadshows.

Businesspeople are urged to bring along any relevant supporting documents.

The Regional SMME Helpdesk roadshows will be held as follows:

REGION	VENUE	DATE	TIME
North	KwaMashu C Hall	10 June 2024	9am-12pm
South	Umlazi W Hall	12 June 2024	9am-12pm
CBD	iTrump	13 June 2024	9am-12pm
Inner West	Pinetown Civic Centre	14 June 2024	9am-12pm

The SMME Helpdesk is situated at the SEDA Office Park, 127 Johannes Nkosi Street.

For enquiries email: Accountspay.Statement@durban.gov.za or Khosi.Sithole@durban.gov.za Alternatively call 031 322 9971.



CITY HOSTS BLUE ECONOMY WORKSHOP AHEAD OF OCEAN'S CONFERENCE

ETHEKWINI Municipality, in collaboration with various marine economy stakeholders, hosted a transformative Blue Economy Learning Exchange at the Moses Mabhida Stadium on 15 and 16 May. The workshop is one of many events to build momentum ahead of the inaugural Blue Economy Conference taking place in the City in September this year. The conference aims to further explore and develop the potential of the blue economy in the region.

EThekwi City Manager Musa Mbhele and Dr Robert Nkuna, Director General of the Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation, were among the key speakers at the learning exchange.

There was also a special online presentation by Dr Zou Lumin which showcased the successful comprehensive pilot zone for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) from the City's sister city Xiamen,



EThekwi Municipality together with various marine economy stakeholders hosted a Blue Economy Learning Exchange at the Moses Mabhida Stadium. LEFT: EThekwi City Manager Musa Mbhele speaking at the learning exchange.

in China. The presentation highlighted lessons learned from ICM practices in the Fujian Province.

The workshop emphasised reimagining the City's blue economy through ICM, focusing on the sustainable use and management of eThekwi's marine and coastal resources. This strategic approach is

expected to bolster economic growth and enhance resilience.

Programme Manager from the Economic Development Unit Nomalanga Sokhela emphasised the importance of eThekwi's coastal positioning and maritime heritage in fostering sustainable development and resilience. She noted that the workshop

fostered strategic discussions aimed at unlocking the full potential of the Blue Economy for the coastal region.

As the City prepares for the Blue Economy Conference, the insights and strategies developed during the learning exchange will play a pivotal role in shaping the agenda and outcomes of the conference.

SUCCESSFUL CAREER EXPO ATTENDED BY GRADE 12 LEARNERS

THOUSANDS of grade 12 learners from 45 schools from disadvantaged communities attended the City's annual Youth Employability Indaba and Career Expo. It was held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 22 to 24 May.

Two special need schools; Mason Lincoln and Kenmont were also invited to the career expo.

Chairperson of the Governance and Human Capital Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala and Deputy Chair Councillor Ntando Khuzwayo attended the three-day expo. They addressed the learners and



Thousands of learners were left motivated after visiting the City's annual Youth Employability Indaba and Career Expo.

motivated them with words of encouragement and inspiration to transform their passion into their career.

Councillor Madlala encouraged the youth to reflect on 30 years of freedom

and democracy. "We need to appreciate and understand the systems and institutions we have in place to carry out government's youth development agenda. This career expo speaks directly

to that agenda and has been developed to meet the needs and aspirations of the youth. You are the future leaders, do not let your challenges limit you from achieving your dreams. Set goals and pursue them with passion and determination," he said. Deputy City Manager of the Corporate and Human Capital Cluster Kim Makhathini said the expo was a platform for the Municipality, public and private organisations, institutions of higher learning, and other key partners to highlight various career opportunities. "This will help the youth make informed decisions about future career choices."

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