

PRIVATE SECTOR CONFIDENCE BOOSTS OUTER WEST DEVELOPMENT

WITH just under a year to go before the official opening of Westown Square, the investment of the new 100ha 'City of the West' is powering ahead.

eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda joined development partners, Fundamentum Property Group (FPG) and Balwin Properties on-site on 18 April, to see first-hand the progress of Westown Square. This comes as the City has invested R600 million into bulk infrastructure in the region. Mayor Kaunda also witnessed the signing of a R2 billion agreement between FPG and Balwin for an eco-estate residential development.

"We have invested close to R600 million towards the bulk infrastructure required to support Westown. This investment will yield huge returns for the City. Once completed, Westown Square will generate approximately R21 million per annum in rates income, increasing to more than R500 million per annum after completion of this R15 billion urban development in 2037," he said.

Mayor Kaunda explained that the 15-year strategic catalytic Shongweni Urban Development consists of nine mixed-use precincts in total. "

Westown Square will be complemented by commercial, residential, logistics and industrial components including a private hospital. We are excited that this is going to be the first real Smart City in the province and will make eThekweni a world-class City," he continued.



eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele, eThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni, Inkosi Shozi and eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda witness the signing of the agreement between CEO of Balwin Properties Steve Brookes and CEO of Fundamentum Property Group Carlos Correia.

Mayor Kaunda said the socio-economic impacts of this investment has been tremendous. To date,

1 000 people, mainly from the area and surrounds, have been hired for the construction of the bulk infrastructure and Westown Square.

CEO of Balwin Properties Steve Brookes said approximately 8 000 jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase of the Shongweni Eco Park with around 500 permanent jobs to be created on completion.

Carlos Correia, CEO of Fundamentum said Westown

is the single biggest infrastructure investment by the Municipality since the Soccer World Cup in 2010 and brings significant socio-economic value to the Outer West region.

Infrastructure upgrades include two new bridges and a total make-over of the existing two-lane Kassier Road across the M13 and N3 into four lanes with a centre median. While the M13 bridge will be rebuilt, a new pedestrian bridge is being added over the N3 along with a new loop ramp and bridge over Kassier Road providing direct access

into Westown. Correia said R1.4 billion of private sector investment has been triggered through the investment by Fundamentum with Absa Commercial and Investment Bank's (Absa) backing the 50 000m² Westown Square retail experience.

"This investment was cemented as Balwin signed a formal agreement with Fundamentum for their 1 260-apartment lifestyle estate, that will comprise of 20 phases, to be built over the next few years and is due to launch later this year," added Correia.

MOSES MABHIDA STADIUM REHABILITATION PROGRAMME UNDERWAY

THE iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium is currently being refurbished as part of the stadium's routine maintenance programme. This is to ensure that the facility remains world class and maintains its reputation as one of South Africa's grandest sporting facilities.

The stadium is structurally stable and continues to be the preferred venue of choice to host various gatherings including political, cultural, religious, lifestyle and sporting events. The stadium recently hosted the quarter finals of the Nedbank Cup and there were over 50 000 spectators. In the previous financial year, the facility generated R53.2 million in revenue, hosting 152 events. The 15-year-old facility, which was built ahead of the 2010 Soccer World Cup, requires a constant maintenance plan. This plan



The Moses Mabhida Stadium is currently being refurbished as part of the stadium's routine maintenance programme. The City will spend approximately R390 million over a three-year period.

ensures that the structure is safe for residents and visitors, is operational and is aligned with evolving technological needs for efficient and profitable commercial operations.

Head of eThekweni Stadia Dr Vusi Mazibuko explained that an asset of this size

and design requires major upgrades and rehabilitation to ensure that it not only remains relevant and attractive, but that it is compliant. The refurbishment which began in the 2023/24 financial year following a thorough conditional assessment, is an

exercise which will see the City spending approximately R390 million over a three-year period. The budget includes other repair works such as the upgrade of the turnstile and the upgrade of the kitchen with related equipment.

"The revamp follows an extensive assessment of the facility, and we have identified urgent rehabilitation that needs to occur.

This includes the rehabilitation of the concrete, steel roof and architectural façade. The facelift also includes the upgrade of the stadium's roof structure and viewing platform to accommodate the new Sky Car to be commissioned with the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period, treating identified corrosion and subsequent paint work," he said.

PRECINCT AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME FOR INNER CITY

AS PART of the City's Inner City Regeneration initiative, eThekweni Municipality is set to launch the Precinct Ambassadors Programme later this week. The programme is spearheaded by eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele. This innovative endeavour represents a proactive step towards reclaiming and reviving the inner city, with a focus on bolstering support for the tourism industry.

eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda will launch this programme which comes at a crucial time. The Precinct Ambassadors will serve as key players in ensuring the success of several events to be hosted in the City, particularly in the Central Precinct and Corridor of Excellence, which serve as focal points for tourist activity. Their responsibilities will include

enhancing security measures, maintaining cleanliness, and upholding optimal maintenance standards to create a welcoming environment for residents and visitors. By complementing existing Municipal services, the Precinct Ambassadors Programme aims to elevate the overall experience of the City, contributing to its vibrancy and attractiveness. This launch signifies a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to rejuvenate and transform eThekweni Municipality's inner city.

As Durban continues to position itself as a leading destination for investment and economic opportunity, the latest statistics serve as a testament to the City's potential and capacity to thrive in an economic landscape.

FACELIFT FOR DURBAN CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

ETHEKWINI held its fourth inner city regeneration town talk recently which focused on a basket of projects that would change the face of the Durban central business district. Dubbed Woza Basket, the initiative is seen as a visionary project designed to breathe new life into the City.

eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele explained that the City is on a path to revitalise the inner city by enhancing infrastructure, promoting economic growth, and fostering a sense of community pride. "The Woza Basket initiative is just one workstream of 14. It comprises of projects that will act as key catalysts for change and will enhance our public spaces, promote sustainable development, and create

opportunities for growth and prosperity," he said.

Mbhele said town talks are held to ensure that communities are well informed and can be a part of the regeneration of the inner city.

Discussions focused on the development of the Durban Bay Waterfront and Marina as just one of the catalytic projects planned for the future. The Marina development will connect the inner city to the harbour and beach precinct adding to the tourist and investor appeal of the City. Some of the other key projects and initiatives of Woza Basket include the development of the Moses Mabhida Sports Precinct, the Centrum Site development, and a possible Formula 1 Racing Track among others.



ETHEKWINI'S INTERVENTIONS BOOST INFORMAL SECTOR



The newly renovated eNtuthukweni Clairwood Hive is a testament of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to developing the informal economy sector. Insert: Manotsi Sefali trades at the Hive.

THE City's Business Support, Tourism, Markets and Agri-Business Unit continues to support initiatives that will promote the sustainability of the informal economy sector. This includes the recent upgrade of the eNtuthukweni Clairwood Hive located at 64 Flower Road in Clairwood, Ward 32. The refurbishment of the facility took six months

to complete. The facility accommodates traders selling clothing garments, which are mostly self-employed women. The project value was R2.8 million and traders have already started operating from the newly refurbished working stations. Manotsi Sefali, 39, trades at the eNtuthukweni Clairwood Hive and manufactures pinafores, petticoats,

skirts, and other garments. Sefali said the machines they are using in her business were provided by a private company through the facilitation of the Municipality.

Meanwhile, the R6 million renovation project at 126 Johannes Nkosi Building in Warwick Avenue in Ward 28 is taking shape. The upgrade will provide traders with alternative working spaces and will house small businesses in the clothing and textile industry. The project is being delivered in partnership by eThekweni Municipality and the Durban University of Technology over nine months. In addition, the Blue Lagoon trader's facility project located in Ward 27 and valued at R12 million is also on track. The facility will accommodate 35 local vendors selling perishable and dry goods along the Durban Beachfront. EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said the informal traders' sector is a huge contributor to job creation.

Revenue hosts successful conveyancer engagement

CONVEYANCERS from around the City were pleased to engage with senior management regarding the rates clearance process during a session held at the Moses Mabhida Stadium on 19 April. The City's Revenue Management Unit (RMU) has been facing backlogs in issuing of rates clearance certificates and conveyancers have been challenged as a result. The session was important for stakeholders to understand the process, said Lihle Ndzelu, Head of RMU. "We want to create a good working relationship between conveyancers and the Municipality, and we are happy to discuss challenges and put forward ways of improving our processes." Ndzelu explained that delays are caused by various factors including the appointment of the Valuations Appeals Board, which was finalised by the province late last year, meter reading contracts, internal issues as well as the manual system in use. Deputy Head of RMU Mxolisi Nkosi reminded conveyancers about the proper application process, information required, submission, and timeframes. He also announced the Rates Clearance System that will be launched in the coming months. Saveria Maharaj from the KZN Legal Practice Council said: "There are marked improvements in the turnaround times, and we hope to see even more from the Municipality."

The RMU committed to meeting with conveyancers several times a year. This was welcomed by all stakeholders present.

PROPELLING MARITIME INNOVATION FORWARD

IN A dynamic session hosted by Innovate Durban, the eThekweni Maritime Cluster Youth Innovation Challenge Prototyping Workshop illuminated the path towards innovation in the maritime sector. The workshop took place on 17 April and allowed participants to dive into an electrifying design thinking brainstorming session. Preston Moodley, Partnership Lead at Innovate Durban, set the stage with a warm welcome, fostering an atmosphere ripe for inspiration. Jason Strauss, Fabrication Manager, unveiled the Innovation Co-Lab and its cutting-edge facilities, sparking the flames of



Innovate Durban hosted the eThekweni Maritime Cluster Youth Innovation Challenge Prototyping Workshop, which illuminated the path towards innovation in the maritime sector.

creativity among participants. Christo Rossouw, the Lab Manager, led an interactive discussion on the prototyping process, equipping attendees with the tools to transform ideas into tangible solutions. EMC extended their gratitude

to all partners for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout the session. The day culminated in an immersive lab tour, offering participants a first-hand glimpse into innovation in motion.



DURBAN ICC CLINCHES TOP HONOURS AT FEDHASA HOSPITALITY AWARDS

THE Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) is proud of its outstanding performance at the inaugural FEDHASA Hospitality Awards held in Cape Town recently. The prestigious event celebrated excellence and outstanding leadership within the hospitality industry. Durban ICC employees showcased their talent and dedication by securing top honours in key categories.

Culinary maestro and Durban ICC's Acting Executive Chef Clinton Bonhomme emerged as the winner in the Culinary Excellence Category.

"Winning is a testament to the passion and dedication of our culinary team at the Durban ICC, who



work tirelessly to deliver unforgettable dining experiences. This award not only reflects our commitment to culinary excellence but also motivates us to continue pushing boundaries and innovating in the kitchen."

In addition to Bonhomme's stellar performance, Thenashree Naidoo, the Durban ICC's Finance

The Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre's Acting Executive Chef Clinton Bonhomme emerged as the winner in the Culinary Excellence Category at the inaugural FEDHASA Hospitality Awards.

Executive, secured second place in the competitive category of Manager of the Year: Business Support. Naidoo's exemplary leadership and strategic acumen have played a pivotal role in driving operational excellence and supporting the centre's business objectives. This follows the recent announcement of the centre's

ninth clean, unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor General of South Africa.

Naidoo said: "I am humbled and grateful to be recognised among such esteemed peers in the hospitality industry. This award is a reflection of the collective efforts of our dedicated team at the Durban ICC." The Durban ICC's success at the FEDHASA Hospitality Awards underscores its commitment to delivering world-class service. Chief Executive Officer of the Durban ICC Lindiwe Rakharebe congratulated the winners saying "their dedication, professionalism, and passion for excellence are the driving forces behind our success, and we are proud to celebrate their achievements."

CITY APPOINTS NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE DURBAN ICC BOARD

THE Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Mduduzi Bophela as the new Chairman of the Board. Dr Bophela brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role, and the Durban ICC looks forward to benefiting from his leadership and strategic vision.

Dr Bophela's appointment comes at the conclusion of Glen Mashinini's term as Chairman. The Durban ICC extends its heartfelt appreciation to Mashinini for his dedication and leadership, which were instrumental in guiding the organisation through a period of recovery.

With a distinguished career spanning various multinational



companies, including SA Breweries, Deloitte Consulting, Nampak, and First National Bank, Dr Bophela brings a wealth of corporate management experience to his new role. In his time on the Board, he has previously served on the Human Resources Committee and as Chair of the Finance, Risk and Compliance Committee, as well as Chair of the Marketing, Infrastructure and Business

Development Committee.

Dr Bophela's achievements at the Durban ICC include delivering two clean, unqualified audits from the Auditor General of South Africa, underscoring his commitment to financial transparency and accountability. His entrepreneurial experience in start-up ventures, spanning mining and exploration, engineering, investments and portfolio management, further enhances his qualifications for the role. The Durban ICC is confident that Dr Bophela's leadership, coupled with his skill set and commitment to excellence, will enhance the organisation's reputation as Africa's leading convention centre.

EMC GOLF NETWORKING DAY

JOIN the 2nd annual golf day to learn more about the work done at the eThekweni Martime Cluster.

The following sponsorships are still available:

R3 500 – 4 ball (includes dinner).

R7 000 – A hole sponsorship with your company branding.

R80 000 – Platinum sponsorship package with your company branding and media coverage.

R100 000 – Premier sponsorship package that includes a halfway house sponsorship with your company branding and more media coverage.

Date: 13 June 2024

Venue: Mount Edgecombe Country Club for a day of fun and networking.

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