

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA UNVEILS NEW VENTURES AS DURBAN GAINS BUSINESS MOMENTUM



President Cyril Ramaphosa was in the City where he visited the Newlyn PX Terminal (right) and Tetra Pak Manufacturing Plant (insert). These landmark inaugurations underscore the thriving business environment in the region.

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa's unwavering dedication to fostering investment and business expansion in South Africa was evident as he proudly inaugurated the Newlyn PX Terminal and Tetra Pak Manufacturing Plant in Durban on 4 April 2024. These landmark inaugurations underscore the thriving business environment in the region and signify substantial progress in the country's ongoing investment initiatives, propelled by the momentum generated at the South African Investment Conference. The unveiling of these state-of-the-art facilities not only represents a significant milestone in Durban's economic landscape but also reaffirms the commitment of both entities to driving sustainable economic development. Through their

participation in the South African Investment Conference, they have demonstrated a shared vision for growth and prosperity, aligning with President Ramaphosa's ambitious agenda to stimulate economic activity and create employment opportunities across the nation. The Newlyn PX Terminal stands as a testament to the transformative power of strategic investment, exceeding expectations with its completion of the largest multi-modal rail terminal in Africa. This achievement highlights Durban's pivotal role as a key logistics hub, bolstering its global competitiveness and positioning it as a premier destination for trade and commerce. Similarly, the Tetra Pak Manufacturing plant's substantial investment underscores Durban's attractiveness as a hub for

innovation and industrial excellence, further enhancing the City's reputation on the global stage. President Ramaphosa's attendance at the inaugurations signifies government's endorsement and commitment to fostering a conducive environment for business growth. This aligns with his vision to restore Durban's former glory through the Presidential eThekweni Working Group which was announced in February this year. Spearheaded by the President, the working group comprises of ministers, business representatives, and Municipal officials, working towards synergy among stakeholders. Regular progress reports ensure transparency and accountability. At the unveiling of the Newlyn Park Bayhead Rail Terminal, President Ramaphosa

emphasised the working group's vital role in revitalising Durban and enhancing the City's status as a global maritime hub. As South Africa continues to navigate its economic recovery journey, investments of this magnitude serve as catalysts for sustained growth and job creation, driving progress towards a brighter and more prosperous future for all citizens. The successful inauguration of the Newlyn PX Terminal and Tetra Pak Manufacturing plant is a testament to Durban's resilience and potential as a thriving economic hub. As the City continues to flourish, supported by a conducive business environment and forward-thinking leadership, the stage is set for Durban to emerge as a beacon of success and prosperity in the global arena.

WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS STRATEGIES TO REJUVENATE DURBAN

POSSIBLE investment into the country by the United States of America was one of the areas of discussion during the recent Inner-City Regeneration Business Investment Webinar.

The State of New York has an annual budget of R229 billion US dollars and close to R1 trillion US dollars in pension funds that are always looking for good return on investments opportunities.

This was revealed by Senator James Sander, Chair of Banking in the State of New York during the webinar. Senator Sander said they are looking at investing in Africa, particularly in South Africa, because of similarities between New York and South Africa.

The Inner-City Regeneration Business Investment Webinar was hosted in partnership by the City's political leadership together with the City of New York with the aim of unlocking investment for the inner city. The partnership is a result of

the Municipality's team who participated in the Resurgence Conference in November last year. The webinar's panel of experts ranged from property development, the oceans economy, and the agriculture and tourism sectors who presented on the diverse investment opportunities Durban has to offer as well as other programmes centred around the City's growth and development.

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said the webinar provided a crucial platform for eThekweni to find innovative ways to build more resiliently, economically and sustainably as the City is working to strengthen ties with the private sector and other cities around the world.

Mayor Kaunda shared how the Municipality plans to address homelessness through a new developed portal to profile migrants coming to the City. He said this will be

done through the R3.6 million the Municipality received from the Mayor's Migration Council. To create a conducive environment for investment and economic growth in the City, Mayor Kaunda said the Municipality is forging ahead with smart city initiatives to promote safety and encourage investment.

City Manager Musa Mbhele said strategies are in place to attract investment and foster entrepreneurship in ocean-related industries within the Municipality and many other industries.

"As part of the inner-city regeneration initiative, the Municipality has established 13 task forces dedicated to revitalising various aspects of the City. These task forces are strategically focused on addressing key areas of concern and opportunity, aiming to stimulate economic growth and development. Among their objectives,

these task forces prioritise infrastructure upgrades to enhance the City's appeal to investors and entrepreneurs," said Mbhele.

Rev. Dennis Dillon, the co-convenor of the Resurgence Conference, said the success of the webinar set the tone for the upcoming physical conference set to take place in Durban in July. "The webinar was a build-up to the conference and was impactful, thought-provoking, and insightful. We are looking forward to practical building on what we have started."

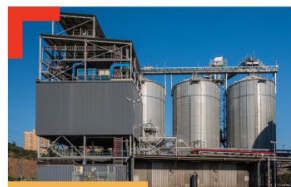
Other private sectors speakers included Chairperson of the Edison Power Group Vivian Reddy; Chairman of the Zungu Investment Company Sandile Zungu; Managing Executive Eastern Region: Transnet National Port Authority Moshe Motlohi; and founder and Director of the Kwa-Mashu Community Advancement Projects (K-CAP) Edmund Mhlongo.

COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE ECO-FRIENDLY PRACTICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

IN A strategic move aimed at fostering economic growth, the City's Economic Development Unit has partnered with AlcoNCP, a leading producer of neutral alcohol. This collaboration, facilitated through the City's Incentive Policy, showcases a commitment to supporting local businesses and creating an environment conducive to expansion and innovation.

The partnership was formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement, offering significant property rate rebates totalling R16.5 million. These incentives are designed to encourage AlcoNCP's expansion efforts and environmental initiatives, further reinforcing the Municipality's dedication to fostering sustainable growth. Over the years, the company

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE POLICY ALCONCP_NEWLY APPROVED RATE REBATE INCENTIVE BENEFICIARY



THE DURBAN EDGE

"Make better informed decisions with cutting edge economic insight."

has evolved into a global leader in the production, distribution, and trade of ethanol, serving diverse sectors including food, industrial,

and pharmaceutical markets. Recognising the potential for further growth, AlcoNCP embarked on an ambitious investment initiative. With

support from the Municipality's Business Development Incentive Policy, the company undertook significant expansion efforts, enhancing capacity and transitioning towards maize feedstock for alcohol production. The partnership between AlcoNCP and the City highlights the symbiotic relationship between local government and businesses. Through incentives provided by the Municipality, companies can fuel growth and expansion, contributing to the City's economic development.

For further details on the Business Development

Incentive Policy, please contact:

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MAYOR KAUNDA UPBEAT ABOUT RESOLVING WATER CHALLENGES AS R1.2 BILLION PROJECT COMMENCES

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda introduced the contractor that will commence with construction of the Southern Aqueduct Pipeline to the uMlazi community on 7 April.

The R1.2 billion project will significantly improve water supply in areas such as uMlazi, Chatsworth, Folweni, Shallcross Nsimbini, KwaMakhutha and Golokodo. The project is expected to be completed in 24 months. During the first six months, the contractor will undertake temporary repairs of the existing pipeline to improve water supply while construction is underway. Mayor Kaunda emphasised to the contractor the importance of completing the project on schedule as residents in the southern region have experienced intermittent water supply for too long.

"We want this project to be

completed exactly in 24 months. We have asked the contractor to work on weekends and public holidays to fast track the construction," said Mayor Kaunda. He warned unscrupulous business forums from invading the construction site saying that acts of criminality will not be tolerated.

Regarding water supply to areas in the north and outer west of the city, the Mayor said he was pleased with the progress made thus far as all 70 air valves along the Northern Aqueduct have been replaced and some areas are now starting to receive some water. "We are concerned that continued acts of vandalism along this pipeline are causing delays. In KwaXimba, the contractor is on site to build a 2 megalitre package plant which will be commissioned by next month."



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda introduced the contractor that will commence with construction of the Southern Aqueduct Pipeline to the uMlazi community.

INAUGURAL PROPERTY CONFERENCE ADDRESSES THE ECONOMY AND TRANSFORMATION

MANAGEMENT and disposal of public sector assets have the ability to transform the economy and people's lives. This was revealed at the Municipality's inaugural Property Conference that took place on 4 April.

The gathering was significant as it brought together organs of state and finance institutions to find ways of unlocking economic opportunities in the property sector.

It was held under the theme 'Maximising public sector assets to drive economic growth and transformation in the property sector to enable meaningful participation and unlocking obstacles that have affected previously disadvantaged individuals'.

Speaking at the event, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said the theme aligns perfectly with the vision of the Freedom Charter that "The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth" and the City's radical socio-economic



One of the panel discussions during the recent Property Conference included the Head of Real Estate Thapelo Mmusinyane, property expert Lynette Ntuli, Palesa Ryan from Development Bank of Southern Africa and Simangele Moloi, Deputy Head: Formal Housing at eThekweni Municipality.

transformation programme. "We want to form a strong partnership with all spheres of government including entities, the private sector, property developers and funding institutions to create economic opportunities and a platform that enables previously disadvantaged individuals

to emerge as key players in the property market thus addressing the inequalities that still exist in the sector," he said.

EThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele spoke about significant milestones that have been achieved over the years. "Since 2019, we have

refurbished 22 buildings, demolished nine structures, and intervened in five buildings to resolve dangerous situations. Additionally, 13 hijacked buildings have been returned to their rightful owners, and administrators have been appointed for six buildings."

Thapelo Mmusinyane, Head of the Real Estate Unit spoke about the City's Land Release Strategy which was approved in 2021.

"The strategy is geared at achieving our developmental objectives, promoting social transformation and improving the economy."

Mmsuniyane said it is advantageous as the City does not have to wait for people to approach, rather release properties and in turn, improving the lives of the people."

He also touched on the number of leases that the City has, the process to tender and the conditions that come with it.



BUSINESS ACCELERATOR HELPS EMPOWER SMES

THE recent 2023 eThekweni Furniture Cluster (EFC) Accelerator Graduation ceremony marked a significant milestone in the journey of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the furniture industry in KwaZulu-Natal. The event not only celebrated the achievements of SME graduates but also underscored the transformative impact of the Accelerator programme on the region's economic landscape.

The City's Economic Development Industry Development Programme Manager Titus Mazibuko said: "The furniture industry in KwaZulu-Natal holds a pivotal position in the regional economy, contributing significantly to employment generation and GDP growth. Recognising this, the 2023 iteration of the Accelerator programme was launched in March last year with a focused aim. This was to develop high-potential Black SMEs as strategic suppliers to lead enterprises. Through targeted interventions such as market access, standards upgrading, and capital investment, the Accelerator aimed to uplift and upgrade SMEs, aligning with eThekweni's broader efforts to stimulate local industry development."

The success of the Accelerator programme was evident in various key impacts witnessed over the course of the



A graduation ceremony for the 2023 eThekweni Furniture Cluster Accelerator Programme was recently held. The Accelerator Programme is making an impact on the region's economic landscape by empowering small and medium enterprises.

year include:

- Nine high-potential SMEs presented their value propositions to leading retailers, gaining exposure to large customers and retail standards.
- Eight commercial opportunities were identified by lead firms, paving the way for further engagement and collaboration.
- Recognition and awards were bestowed upon exemplary SMEs, highlighting their innovation and industry impact.
- Eight SMEs received comprehensive support, including diagnostic assessments, coaching by industry experts, and access to cluster resources.
- One SME unlocked funding opportunities for business expansion through the IDC.

The significance of the Accelerator programme extended beyond individual SMEs to encompass the wider industry landscape by providing access to market opportunities and resources.

BE PART OF KZN CLOTHING AND TEXTILE WORKSHOP

ARE you a small to medium-sized enterprise in the clothing, textile, footwear, and leather sector looking to secure big customers and scale up your business?

Then join the KwaZulu-Natal Clothing and Textile Cluster Origin8 workshop to gain invaluable insights into the expectations of big national customers, including what they Need from high performing suppliers and their requirement.

DATE: Tuesday, 21 May 2024

TIME: 9am to 1pm

VENUE: Toyota Wessels Institute for Manufacturing Studies (TWIMS), 74 Everton Road, Kloof,

Register: <https://bit.ly/3TQ3SpH>

CALLOUT FOR FURNITURE MAKERS

THE eThekweni Furniture Cluster is calling on small or medium-sized enterprise in the furniture sector looking to grow their business to join the Customer Compass Programme.

DATE: 28 May 2024

TIME: 8am to 4pm

VENUE: Twims, 74 Everton Rd, Kloof.

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