

No. 66

MINUTES

OF

ETHEKWINI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Special meeting held on Friday, 2024-05-03T11:00,
Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Conventional Centre, Durban.

PRESENT : Councillors TE Nyawose (Speaker), TM Kaunda (Mayor), AD Beesley, A Beetge, M Billy, JM Black, NJ Bollman, M Brauteseth, WJD Burne, MH Buthelezi, KPM Cele, SB Cele, J Chetty, CB Dlamini, J Essop, SG Gama, GM Gasas, SN Gabela, Z Dzanibe, J Essop, BA Fortein, FO Gcabashe, G Govender, S Govender, Y Govender, BR Gumede, S Gumede, GJ Hegter, MM Hlengwa, NP Hlomuka, SD Hlongwa, LBS Jali, M Johnson, K Khambule, SM Khanyile, NC Khawula, NP Khawula, MN Khubisa, KNN Khubone, NL Khuzwayo, ZW Khuzwayo, SNC Khwela, A Kissoon, V Kunju, CJ Laing, SW Lushaba, M Lutchmen, WM Luthuli, ME Mabaso, RD Macpherson, MA Madlala, NI Madlala, RP Maharaj, S Maharaj, TG Makhanya, HS Makhathini, MW Manqele, JB Maphumulo, NJ Maphumulo, TZ Mathe, SH Mazibuko, WM Mazibuko, M Mbambo, KT Mbhele, BA Mchunu, JL Mchunu, RL McKenzie, X Mdlazi FW Mdletshe, DL Mea, SP Mfeka, MA Mgobhozi, K Mhlaba, DPM Mhlongo, GN Mhlongo, SE Mhlongo, T Miya, AZ Mkhize, KV Mkhize, ME Mkhize, MP Mkhize, NN Mkhize, NA Mkhize, SM Mkhize, TJ Mkhize, B Mkhwanazi, BR Mngadi, DF Mngadi, S Mngadi, SV Mngadi, DP Mngoma, MR Mngonyama, TJ Mnguni, ZM Mncwango, BV Mngwengwe, ZO Mnomiya, S Mnyandu, T Mohamed, R Moses, ND Motseke, SB Mpanza, LI Msomi, DV Msweli, SSS Mthethwa, TD Mthethwa, TM Mthethwa, N Munien, OB Mvubu, ZP Myeni, SK Mzimela, BD Naidoo, S Nala, V Ncukana, NB Ndlela, AB Ndlovu, Ndlovu, PB Ndlovu, PC Ndlovu, NS Ndlovu, TB Ndlovu, SG Nene, TH Nene, SB Ngcongo, DB Ngubane, LE Nkomeni, DR Nowbuth, XM Nqweniso, DM Nsundwane, SH Ntombela, PC Ntshangase, BT Ntuli, N Ntuli, PB Ntuli, B Nxumalo, PH Nxumalo, TS Nxumalo, MV Nzimande-Madlala, AAK Paruk, AE Peterson, AS Phahla, BW Phewa, D Pillay, P Pillay, GDA Pullan, A Rampersad, R Rampersad, VG Reddy, T Sabelo, S Sewshanker, LP Shange, MG Shange, TE Shezi, IM Shinga, HP Shoji, JN Sibisi, KS Sibisi, LC Sikhakhane, BSB Sindane, J Singh, S Singh, PS Sishange, CN Sisoka, NI Sithole, BS Sivetye, EG Smith, AD Snyman, ZR Sokhabase, ZA Solomon, M Thusi, NT Tyelinzima, JC Van den Berg, HM Van Der Ryst, NB Vilakazi, NI Webster, SM Windvogel, NL Xulu, TV Xulu, T Xuma, NY Young, M Zondi and ON Zondi-Mthembu.

ABSENT : Councillors A Abdul (leave), J Annipen (Leave), T Biyela (Leave), MB Blose, SP Chebure, R Cloete (Indisposed), SV De Boer (Indisposed), DM Gcabashe (Leave), SV Govender (Leave), NC Gumede (Leave), MS Gwala (Leave), F Ismail (Leave), MF Ismail, DM James, MH Khan, BG Kubheka (Indisposed), SR Madlala, A Maharajh (leave), FN Majola, RP Mbonambi (Leave), SW Mcineka, NP Mchunu (Leave), MB Mjadu (Leave), NM Mhlongo, MA Mkhize (Leave), E Mngadi (leave), SR Moodley (Leave), J Naidoo (Leave), V Ndlovu (Leave), MS Nkosi (Leave), NC Ntshayintshayi, ZN Ntuli, MR Nxumalo (Leave), NN Nyanisa (Indisposed), A Shaheed (Leave),

BH Shange (Leave), WP Sibiya, EL Singh, I Syed (Leave), BB Thusi (Leave), ME Thusi (Leave), ZM Tshazela (Leave), N Zondi and TG Zungu.

AMAKHOSI

PRESENT : EM Shozi

AMAKHOSI

ABSENT : Inkosi S Mlaba (Leave – Attending Provincial House Meeting)

OFFICIALS

PRESENT : Messrs/Mesdames Mr TB Mbhele (City Manager), S Mfingwana (Deputy Head: Legal & Compliance), M Mthiyane (Deputy Head: Legal and Compliance), BM Mhlongo (Deputy Head: Office of the Speaker), T Ndlovu (Senior Manager: Secretariat) and SC Kunene (Manager: Council Committees).

(At the commencement of the meeting 169 Councillors were present, comprising ANC - 89, DA - 48, EFF - 17, IFP - 00, ASA - 01, ABC - 02, ACC - 00, ACDP - 02, AIC - 02, ADEC - 00, APF - 01, ATM - 01, AL JAMA-AH - 00, DLC - 01, JEP - 00, KZNI - 01, MF - 01, MOSA - 00, NFP - 01, PFP - 00, PRM - 01, TA- 00, UIM - 01 and VF Plus - 00).

1. NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

The City Manager, Mr TB Mbhele read the notice convening the meeting as per the statutory requirement.

2. OPENING

The Speaker declared the meeting open at 11h18 and extended a warm welcome to Councillors, Traditional Leaders; City Manager, Deputy City Managers, Legal and Compliance representatives, other Unit Heads and Members of the Administration. A special warm welcome was extended to the, Media and Members of the Public viewing on social media live streaming.

3. AFRICAN UNION AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

At the request of the Speaker the meeting stood to sing the African Union Anthem and the National Anthem of the Republic of South Africa.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER/MEDITATION

The Speaker requested Council to observe a moment's silence for everyone to meditate.

5. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prior to presenting the official announcements, the Speaker extended a warm welcome to a Grade 7 student from Crawford School, Jaden Murugan who was part of the attendees to observe the proceedings of the Council meeting.

The Speaker mentioned that the City was saddened by the loss of South African Boxer Dingaane Thobela, a two-weight world champion, affectionately known as “The Rose of Soweto” who was called to rest on 29 April 2024. The City extended its condolences to the Dingaane family, Boxing fraternity, and supporters of the late world champion.

The Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre, Durban ICC, was congratulated for being nominated once again for Africa’s top award, at the World Travel Awards, as “Africa’s Leading Meetings and Conference Centre 2024”. The World Travel Awards will be held later in the year, and well wishes were extended in this regard.

At this stage of the proceedings, time being 11h47, a number of point of orders were raised by some Councillors to get the attention of the Speaker. The Speaker proceeded with the official announcements. In noting that the Speaker was not recognising the Councillors that continued to raise point of orders, the following political parties ended up walking out of the meeting; namely the DA, Action SA and the ACDP.

Continuing with the announcements, appreciation was expressed to all eThekweni citizens that celebrated Freedom Day on the 27th of April under the theme “30 years of Democracy, Partnership and Growth”, and this year’s celebration had special significance as it coincided with the 28th Anniversary of the enactment of the South African Constitution as the supreme law of the land.

Councillors to note the circulated speaking times for the 2024/2025 Budget and SOCA debate and it being noted that the debate will be done simultaneously as per the shared allocated times.

Councillors were reminded that during voting, Council relies on the Councillor attendance records already reflected on the screen at the commencement of the voting process. Councillors that are not in the Chamber during voting, will not be let in, however a Councillor who forces entry when voting is in progress is not counted even if raising his/her hand. The Secretariat Team was kindly requested not to change the attendance records in the middle of the voting process. Councillors were encouraged to continue respecting the Security Management Team who is manning doors to support us having a dignified meeting.

Councillors were reminded to conduct themselves in line with the provisions of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct to ensure this meeting maintains dignity and is also conducted in such a manner that good leadership image is portrayed to the eThekweni residents.

Party Whips were also reminded to take responsibility and accountability to monitor the conduct of Councillors to promote responsible leadership coupled with ethical values.

In conclusion best wishes to Councillors celebrating their birthdays in the month of May 2024.

Having concluded the announcements, the Speaker expressed his concern with the behaviour of the Political Parties who continued raising point of orders whilst he was presenting. The ATM requested that the Whip of Council to confirm quorum following the departure of some Councillors.

The ANC then sought legal advice taking into cognisance the new Regulations that stipulates disciplinary action for Councillors walking out meetings. Confirmation was given that the new Regulations recommends institution of disciplinary actions for walking out of the meeting, and that the issue of the Councillors concerned will be attended to in terms of these Regulations.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Regarding the Applications for Leave of Absence submitted for this meeting, it was accordingly,

RESOLVED:

That the following Councillors be granted leave of absence as indicated:

COUNCILLORS

Councillor J Annipen	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor T Biyela	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor NJ Bollman	:	2024-05-03	To leave at 15h00
Councillor R Cloete	:	2024-05-03	Indisposed
Councillor SV De Boer	:	2024-05-03	Indisposed
Councillor DM Gcabashe	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor SV Govender	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor NC Gumede	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor MS Gwala	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor M Hlengwa	:	2024-05-03	To leave at 14h00
Councillor MF Ismail	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor ZW Khuzwayo	:	2024-05-03	To leave at 16h00
Councillor M Kubheka	:	2024-05-03	Indisposed
Councillor RD Macpherson	:	2024-05-03	To leave at 17h00
Councillor A Maharajh	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor RP Mbonambi	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor NP Mchunu	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor MB Mjadu	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor MA Mkhize	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor E Mngadi	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor T Mohammed	:	2024-05-03	To leave at 11h30
Councillor SR Moodley	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor J Naidoo	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor V Ndlovu	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments

Councillor MS Nkosi	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor MR Nxumalo	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor NN Nyanisa	:	2024-05-03	Indisposed
Councillor VG Reddy	:	2024-05-03	To leave at 12h30
Councillor A Shaheed	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor I Syed	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor BB Thusi	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor M Thusi	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments
Councillor Z Tshazela	:	2024-05-03	Personal Commitments

AMAKHOSI

Inkosi S Mlaba : 2024-05-03 Provincial House Meeting

7. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

It was noted that none of the Members of Council had declared interest on items appearing on the Agenda.

At this stage of the proceedings (12:00), the Political Parties that had walked of the meeting (the DA, ActionSA and the ACDP), re-joined the meeting.

Speaking on the rationale behind raising point of orders and the subsequent walk out, the ActionSA stated that this special meeting was convened to consider and approve the Budget. However, copies of the actual Budget and the Tariffs document have not been received by Councillors, hence they were raising a point of order earlier.

Commenting on the reasons for walking out, the DA stated that they also wanted to raise a similar issue of having not received the budget documents timeously. Mention being made that the concern was that it would be impractical to engage meaningfully, with the documents in question were bulky.

The Speaker admitted that the concerns raised were genuine, but that the interruptions while he is on the item of announcements was uncalled for, since there was still time to raise and deal with the issues of budget documents before such is presented. He then confirmed that His Worship the Mayor will touch on that aspect, and in the meantime the Speaker advised that the compilation of documents involves back and forth submissions trying to arrive at the balanced budget. That this process then leads to some delays in printing and distributing items.

(His Worship the Mayor, Councillor TM Kaunda presented First Report of the Executive Committee)

FIRST REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 2024-05-02)

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- PRESENT : Executive Committee Members TM Kaunda (Mayor and Chairperson), ZP Myeni (Deputy Mayor), A Beetge, Y Govender; NI Madlala, TM Mthethwa, MS Nkosi and ZR Sokhabase.
- ABSENT : Executive Committee Members BT Ntuli (Municipal Business Leave) and OB Mvubu (Personal Commitments Leave).
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1. ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY FINAL INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2024-2025 (2/1/6/1)

(Page 1)

As per the legislative requirement, the eThekweni Municipality has adhered to the applicable legislative processes in relation to the development and review of its Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The IDP is the most important tool used by the Municipality to plan for future developments and therefore outlines developmental goals and objectives. The IDP document is prepared in consultation with various stakeholders, including local communities.

The legislative processes complied with in relation to the 2024-25 IDP includes:

- Submission of draft IDP for noting by the Council at its March 2024 meeting;
- Submission of draft IDP noted by the Council for assessment by the MEC for Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs; and
- Advertising draft IDP for twenty-one (21) days to solicit stakeholder input and comments, which process closed 23 April 2024.

It should be noted that the eThekweni Municipality's IDP was also assessed by the National Departments as part of an intensive benchmarking exercise facilitated by the National Treasury, where the IDP was deemed to be fully aligned to the budget.

The comments received from various stakeholders have been taken into consideration and prioritized according to the following approach:

- Incorporating information into the currently reviewed IDP document, where practical short-term measures have been confirmed for particular matters;
- Prioritizing certain matters for incorporation during a mid-term adjustments process; and
- Matters of a complex and/or long-term nature to be prioritized for incorporation during the overall annual IDP review.

For the public participation process, input and comments were gathered through written communication and through physical IDP-Budget hearings. A summary of the salient points raised through written communication is provided as follows:

- (a) Increase in the cost of living making it difficult to manage the additional tariff increases;
- (b) No value for money when it came to the delivery of services compared with the current rates contributions being made;
- (c) Limited or no access to essential services was also a key comment and this largely related to water and electricity outages;
- (d) Lack of infrastructure and asset planning and maintenance;
- (e) Lengthy outages experienced whereas faults were lodged;
- (f) Wasteful and controversial expenditure, such as security guards; entertainment; and unnecessary events, were raised as issues for objecting to any rates increases;
- (g) Fraud and corruption and its impact on administration, also lack of accountability;
- (h) Lack of transparency in the manner in which the Municipality engages with the residents, attention being drawn that the City exhibited very poor community engagement strategies;
- (i) Poor attention to basic service delivery from water, electricity, refuse removal, repairing street lights, cutting of verges and maintenance of parks;
- (j) Pensioners objected to higher tariffs, citing unaffordability based on high cost of living and limited revenue streams;
- (k) Billings errors and reading of meters for both electricity and water were cited as key areas that the Municipality would need to resolve, and that failure to read meters regularly has resulted in exorbitant bills;
- (l) Staff was considered incompetent and unable to perform duties accordingly, with a suggestion that staff be trained or consideration being given to employing competent staff. Further, that staff salaries should not be increased as this would assist alleviate the burden of additional tariff increase;
- (m) Unsatisfactory upkeep and protection of the natural green areas, with emphasis being put on the significance of protecting areas against land invasions;
- (n) Lack of law enforcement in the Municipality thus impacting on the quality of life;
- (o) Prioritization of food safety and hygiene in the IDP, SDBIP and Draft Budget for 2024/2025 – 2026/2027; and
- (p) Capital expenditure investment on Food Safety Laboratory to advance public health.

A summary of the input and comments gathered through the IDP-Budget hearings is recorded as follows:

- (a) Poor service delivery across all sector departments
- (b) Disaster management planning and disaster preparedness was a concern
- (c) Continuous water leaks and outages
- (d) Impacts of loadshedding on the economy and quality of life
- (e) Defective streetlighting
- (f) No or limited grass cutting
- (g) Sporadic refuse removal
- (h) Potholes and road maintenance
- (i) Long wait when accessing the call centres
- (j) Community ablution blocks not functional and need for additional funding
- (k) Dilapidated swimming pools
- (l) How is the city managing homelessness
- (m) Need for quality human settlements
- (n) Low productivity of Municipal staff
- (o) Lack of public participation
- (p) Need for improved citizen and Municipal public interface
- (q) Elected officials not performing their duties, limited community engagements with citizens
- (r) High levels of fraud and corruption, reasons to be provided for high irregular and wasteful expenditure
- (s) Lack of transparency
- (t) No consequence management
- (u) Municipality does not report on progress made on projects
- (v) High tariff rates are not acceptable
- (w) High unemployment and growing poverty
- (x) Stormwater not properly managed

The Executive Committee noted the submissions by the various stakeholders, and thereafter committed to facilitating the development of a Turnaround Plan, with specific timelines, and speaking to each and every item contained on the list of issues presented, as raised during the public participation process. That this Plan be presented to the Committee in the month of June 2024 for effective monitoring and tracking progress made to respond to the issues. Failure to do so was considered to be catastrophic for the City, in particular, as a result of potential mass rates boycotts. Hence, emphasis was put on the significance to achieve the necessary alignment in terms of the IDP incorporating input and comments made at the Wards level.

Thereafter, with the Executive Committee appreciating the process which has been followed to review the IDP, and committing to responding comprehensively to the issues raised during the public participation process,

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

- 1.1 That Council approves the eThekweni Municipality's 2024-2025 Integrated Development Plan (IDP), as circulated, and reviewed in line with the requirements of Section 28(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 to facilitate inclusive transformational and developmental issues within the eThekweni Municipal area, it being recorded that input received from stakeholders have been taken into account in finalizing the IDP.

- 1.2 That Council notes that the IDP, Budget and supporting documentation will be submitted to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, as required in terms of Section 32(1)(a) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000.

Speaking on the matter, the DA submitted that the document is more of a wish list in view of same not being implemented effectively. The contributions made by the residents to improve the IDP were noted, and the focus would be more on monitoring the implementation against the budget.

Sharing the same sentiments, the ActionSA stated that the document referred to submissions made by the public, but that these have not been recorded in detail. Also recommending the submission of monthly reports to Council with a view to monitoring progress in implementing the IDP.

Contributing input into the IDP discussion, the ANC advised of the importance to respond to issues raised by the members of the public. Confirmation was given that quarterly reports are submitted to the Council on progress made to implement the IDP principles. Appreciation was then extended to the communities for their participation during the Budget and IDP roadshows.

ADOPTED, whilst noting abstention by the ActionSA.

2. APPROVAL OF REVISED ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY PROPERTY RATES POLICY 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR (7/2/P)

(Page 13)

It will be recalled that the eThekweni Municipal Council previously considered the draft revised Property Rates Policy 2024-25 and resolved to subject the policy document to a public consultation process, as per the statutory requirement, thus enabling stakeholder views in this regard.

Accordingly, the policy was advertised until 15 March 2024. The views from the various stakeholders have been taken into consideration, it being advised that most of the comments related to the issue of vacant land rates. Confirmation was then given that this has since been reviewed and rebates will be implemented accordingly, as outlined in Clause 7, under Section E of the recommendations below. Whereas, Clause 7.12.9 outlines a criteria to be complied with to be eligible to be granted rebate.

The Committee appreciated the revision undertaken to respond to stakeholder inputs and comments. The policy was therefore supported by the majority, and noting the abstention by the DA and the IFP respectively.

Accordingly,

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

That the revised eThekweni Municipality Property Rates Policy (Reference: eThekweni Municipality Property Rates Policy 2024/2025, attached to the Report by the City Manager dated 2024-04-30, and circulated separately, be approved, for implementation with effect from 2024-07-01, and which Policy incorporates the amendments reflected below, with input from the public participation process also having been considered:

Proposed Amendments to the Policy After Public Participation Process:

Proposed changes to the Policy, as set out below, are highlighted as follows:

- (a) **New and/or amended text** are reflected in **bold**;
- (b) Words which appear in ***bold italics and between parentheses []*** indicate explanation for noting.

A. Definitions and Acronyms:

"Business and Commercial property" means, unless a definition in the Act or a provision in this Policy, indicates otherwise-

- a) Property used for the activity of buying... but excludes a warehouse and distribution **centre**;

[Rationale for change: minor changes to correct grammar and reflect the place not the use]

"Outside Urban Development Line" means a geographical area comprising of properties in respect of which municipal services are mostly not available and where development is generally not promoted, as demarcated by the Municipality;

[Rationale for change: Definition omitted in the Policy]

B. Institutional Requirements:

The effective date of this Policy will be **on 1 July 2024**

[Rationale for change: self-explanatory]

C. Clause 5: Category of Property:

5.5 The Municipality has identified the following categories of property in accordance with Section 8 of the Act-

- (a) ...;
- (b)....;
- (c)....;
- (d)....;
- (e)....;
- (f)....;
- (g)....;
- (h)....;
- (i)....;
- (j)....;
- (k)....; and
- (l) Outside Urban Development Line.**

[Rationale for change: Erroneously excluded in the Policy]

5.9 In order for the Municipal Valuer to categorise properties as a PBO property, an application for a change in the property rating category must be made, in the prescribed form, to the Municipal Valuer.

[Rationale for change: To align the clause with the functions of the Municipal Valuer]

- (i) The property must be owned by the applicant and used as a PBO;

[Rationale for change: To bring clarity to the clause to avoid any ambiguity]

- (iii) Deleted.

- (iv) The registered owner that is a PBO must provide copies of the organisation's memorandum of incorporation/founding documents...

- (v) The registered owner must provide a copy of the title deeds of the property

[Rationale for change: To align the clauses within the definition of the owner in the MPRA]

D. Clause 6: Categories of Owners of Property:

Clause Re-instated

[Rationale for change: Re-instated due to public demand and rebate is subject to the approval of the Green Certified Building Incentive Policy]

E. Clause 7: Exemptions, Rebates and Reductions ("RELIEF"):

- 7.12.4 In addition to a reduction prescribed in Clause 7.12.1, the Council may on application, grant a rebate to vacant landowners, who meet the set qualifying criteria as outlined in Clause 7.12.9.**
- 7.12.5 The purpose of this rebate is to provide relief to vacant landowners, encourage the development and utilisation of vacant land within the Municipality.**
- 7.12.6 When granting the application for rebate, the CFO may consider other factors such as the economic and social benefits of the proposed development, the impact on the community, and environmental considerations.**
- 7.12.7 The Council reserves the right to rescind any rebate granted to the landowner or developer where the property owner fails to comply with the provisions of National Building Regulations and/or eThekweni Municipality Planning and Land Use Management Bylaw, as amended.**
- 7.12.8 The rebate will remain valid for the maximum period of twenty-four (24) months, as a once off relief to qualifying vacant landowners. This will be applicable during:**
- i. the approved building plan's validity; or**
 - ii. until the construction is completed; or**
 - iii. category of use changes, whichever occurs first.**
- 7.12.9 In order to qualify for a vacant land rebate, the following criteria must be met:**
- i. The vacant land rebate application must be in a prescribed application form to the CFO;**

- ii. The application must be accompanied by an approved and valid building plan. No application will be accepted and considered without an approved building plan;
- iii. The vacant land rebate will only apply to properties that are categorised as vacant land by the Municipal Valuer.
- iv. The vacant land owned by the Organ of State and government departments will be excluded from this rebate, unless such vacant land is leased out and that lease agreement is registered in the Deeds Registry Office of KwaZulu- Natal;
- v. Municipality reserves the right to reverse any rebate granted to the vacant landowner, where change in ownership occurs before land is developed or/and category use is changed.
- vi. The rebate application for the approved building plan of a guard house, boundary walls etc., will not be considered.

7.12.10 Beneficiaries of the development incentives rebate referred to in Clause 14 of this Policy, will not qualify for the vacant land rebate. Property owners may either benefit from the vacant land rebate or development incentive rebate.

[Rationale for change: The new clause intends to provide much needed limited relief to property owners of vacant land, who have secured the approval of the building plan and/or at a construction stage].

F. Clause 7.13: Nature Reserves / Conservation Areas:

7.13.2.8 The Council may, in its annual budget meeting, grant a rebate or reduction in respect of a category of owner of environmentally sensitive land as identified in the Municipality's Land Use Scheme.

7.13.2.9 Where the land is not zoned for conservation purposes and an environmental servitude has not been registered in favour of the Municipality, an owner may be granted a reduction or rebate, provided the owner has agreed to the Municipality rezoning the affected land to protect the environment.

[Rationale for change: Clause inclusion is aimed at providing incentives to property owners to look after environmental sensitive portion of their property and the clause outlines the plan for doing so.]

G. Clause 7.14: Green Certified Buildings:

Clause 7.14.1 - Re-instated

Clause 7.14.2 - Re-instated

Clause 7.14.3 - Re-instated

Clause 7.14.4 - Re-instated

New Clause 7.14.5 The granting of the rebate contemplated in Clause 7.14.1, is subject to the approval of the Green Building Incentives Policy by the Council.

[Rationale for change: Based on public comments received, the proposed removal of the clauses is rescinded, and the rebate will be subject to the approval of the Green Building Incentives Policy].

H. Clause 9.4: Financial Control:

- 9.4.11** If the CFO, after an investigation, determines that a SRA is not financially viable, the Municipality may dissolve the SRA.

[Rationale for change: To afford SRA who cannot reach a stipulated collection rate, an opportunity to recover on its collection of revenue without stringent requirement. Currently, the Municipality only pay what is collected for SRA].

I. Clause 11: Unauthorised or Illegal Development or use and Abandoned Property or Building:

- 11.2** Where a property or the buildings on a property have, in the opinion of the **line department**, been abandoned and have become or are becoming derelict or unusable in its present condition for the purpose for which it was intended, **such line department** may request the Municipal Valuer.....

[Rationale for change: To correctly align the clause with the current processes which are managed by line departments]

- 11.4 (c)** copies of summonses and statements from relevant **line department** in support of criminal proceedings;

[Rationale for change: filling in the words erroneously omitted]

J. Clause 18: Supplementary Valuations:

- 18.3** If it is not possible to determine the exact date on which the change of category occurred, the **Municipal Valuer** may.....

- 18.3.5** any other factors which the **Municipal Valuer** deems relevant.

- 18.4** Where the **Municipal Valuer** has determined that the date on which the change of category referred to in Section 78 (1)(g) of the Act.

[Rationale for change: Aligning clauses to the functions of the Municipal Valuer]

K. Clause 20: Policy Evaluation and Review:

- 20.** This is the **16th** review of the original rates policy adopted by the Council in 2008 in compliance with the Act.

[Rationale for change: Self-explanatory].

The DA indicated that the amendments made to the Rates Policy were welcomed more especially the punitive rating of vacant land and the process of implementing punitive rate rand on properties categorized as unauthorized/illegal development or abandoned. That the comments received from the public confirmed that this policy is not entirely welcomed because of the negative impact from the individual members; financial status is concerned. It being highlighted that a number of comments have been received requesting clear distinction of the types of vacant land.

It was further indicated that the proposed amendment of allowing the owner of a vacant land to apply for a rebate when in possession of approved building plans was too late in terms of the property development process. The solution would be to create a category of properties for rating purposes which will be referred to as “vacant land under development”. In view of this suggestion, it was indicated that the Municipality should convene a workshop with the property industry role player to further interrogate this aspect.

Another significant shortcoming recognized in the existing Rates Policy related to unauthorized/illegal property/abandoned development and that consideration should be given to dealing with these separately and with each category to have its own clause. The proposed change in respect of the function of imposing punitive rates from the Chief Financial Officer to the line department was regarded a step in the right direction; however, that this would not assist the Municipality from the plight of many properties that are developed illegally or used illegally.

Concluding the debate, the DA emphasized the need for the Municipality to instill proper enforcement on illegal or abandoned properties as this will also assist in generating revenue.

Thereafter, as some Councillors were not in support of the recommendations, the matter was put to a vote. With 169 Councillors present, 112 Councillors (ANC-89, EFF-17, ABC-01, DLC-01, MF-01, NFP-01, PRM-01 and TA-01) voted in support of the recommendations, 52 Councillors (DA-48, Action SA-01, ABC-01 and ACDP-02) voted against the recommendations and 02 Councillors (ATM-01 and KZNI-01) abstained.

Thereafter, the recommendations were by the majority vote, **ADOPTED.**

(His Worship the Mayor, Councillor TM Kaunda presented Second Report of the Executive Committee)

SECOND REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 2024-05-03)

PRESENT : Executive Committee Members TM Kaunda (Mayor and Chairperson), ZP Myeni (Deputy Mayor), A Beetge, Y Govender; NI Madlala, TM Mthethwa, OB Mvubu, MS Nkosi, BT Ntuli, ZR Sokhabase.

1. BUDGETS 2024/2025 – 2026/2027 MEDIUM TERM REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (MTREF)

(Item on agenda and circulated separately)

The eThekweni Municipal Council at its meeting of March 2024 gave an in-principle approval of the draft budget for the 2024/2025-2026/2027 MTREF, subject to a public participation process. Accordingly, the budget hearings were conducted, which then culminated into the finalization of the budget processes and thus the submission of the final draft before this Municipal Council of 03 May 2024.

Listed below are issues raised during the budget hearings, and the final draft budget takes into consideration some of the various stakeholder inputs and comments made, as reflected below:

- Unaffordability of tariffs
- Poor service delivery
- Ineffective repairs of water leaks and electricity faults-prolonged periods of no water and/or electricity
- Contractor performance – repetitive breakdowns of areas repaired
- Sewer spillages
- Non-functional call centres
- Housing
- Ineffective informal settlement plan
- Streetlighting not working
- Issues regarding job creation and skills development
- Some areas collection of refuse not done timeously
- Shortage of clinics, community halls and libraries.

Other issues have been referred to the respective Municipal Clusters to give these the necessary attention in preparation to provide responses to stakeholders.

In compiling this budget, a balance has been maintained between social, economic and development expenditure to ensure that service delivery is not compromised. The impact of the storm disasters has resulted in the 2024/2025 MTREF having a high emphasis on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure and maintenance of infrastructure to facilitate uninterrupted services delivery, with a focus on the following key priorities for the MTREF:

- Wastewater Treatment Works: Upgrades/Expansion
- Water loss Intervention Programme & Replacement of water pipes
- Electricity Infrastructure
- Catalytic Projects
- Low-cost Housing and Infrastructure
- Transport Infrastructure
- Roads Rehabilitation & Reconstruction and New Access roads

Total Budget 2024/2025 MTREF:

The total budget for the 2024/2025 year is now R67.4 Billion which has been developed with an overall planning framework and includes programmes and projects to achieve the City's strategic objectives as well as address flood damage expenditure.

Consolidated Summary (including entities):

Details	Budget Year 2024/2025	Budget Year 2025/2026	Budget Year 2026/2027
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Total Operating budget	59 519 784	63 947 258	70 319 116
Total Capital budget	7 680 538	6 728 428	6 169 144
Total Budget	67 200 322	70 675 686	76 488 260

Capital Budget:

The final capital budget for 2024/2025 has increased by 2% from R7.6 Billion in the budget tabled to Council on 19 March 2024 to R7.7 Billion. The proposed budgeted borrowing is unchanged at R1.5 Billion.

Summary of the Capital Budget over MTREF is set out in the table below:

Details	Budget Year 2024/2025	Budget Year 2025/2026	Budget Year 2026/2027
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Total Capital Budget	7 680 538	6 728 428	6 169 144
<u>Funded as follows:</u>			
Grant Funding	3 458 901	3 352 544	3 507 741
Internal Funding	2 721 637	2 375 884	1 661 403
External Funding	1 500 000	1 000 000	1 000 000
TOTAL	7 680 538	6 728 428	6 169 144

The Executive Committee discussed the budget at its meeting of 02 May 2024 and thereafter adjourned to proceed the following day to look into the budget together with the tariffs. The Committee was assured that the final draft budget presented is almost similar to the budget document presented in March 2024, with changes being effected to tariffs, following the input and comments of the budget hearings. The Committee then looked into the tariffs as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

The table below reflects a full record, in terms of comparisons between the tariffs proposed in March 2024, before stakeholder participation, and the revised tariffs taking into accounts stakeholder comments. It is worth noting that the table also reflects lost revenue as a result of a compromise made to accommodate the plights of the residents given the current economic turmoil.

	2024/2025 Proposed Tariff during the draft Budget in March 2024	2024/25 Final Proposed tariffs	Reduction in Revenue (‘m)
Electricity	14.0%	12.72%	R250

	2024/2025 Proposed Tariff during the draft Budget in March 2024	2024/25 Final Proposed tariffs	Reduction in Revenue (‘m)
Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	14.9% 14.9%	12.9% 12.9%	R150
Refuse Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	8.0% 9.0%	7% 8%	R10
Sanitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	12.9% 12.9%	10.9% 10.9%	R30
Rates: Average	7.9%	6.5%	R180

Given information in the table above, the Municipality will incur a total revenue loss of R620 Million. To achieve a balanced budget despite the reduction, adjustments have been effected to both the operating and the capital budget. The National Treasury has been consulted accordingly in this regard.

During discussions, the Executive Committee members commended the Administration led by the City Manager, and in particular, the Chief Financial Officer who has been at the forefront of dealing with multiple challenges and choices to finally arrived at the final draft budget. The key areas covered in the budget, in particular those aimed at supporting the community’s socio-economic needs were appreciated. It was also noted that the Municipality is making significant strides to uplift eThekweni citizens, but that apparently, this is not communicated effectively. As such, a recommendation was made to consider allocating 1% of the budget towards the communication aspects within the Communications Unit.

His Worship the Mayor and the Speaker were also commended for the outstanding leadership displayed towards dealing with the budget matters, in terms of providing oversight in the consolidation of the budget and conducting the public participation process. Reference was also made to a proposal of introducing a flat rate of R100.00 (One Hundred Rand) in rural areas, that this proposal be pursued in view of affording households now relocating from the City to the rural areas.

The Committee acknowledged the complexity surrounding the compilation of the budget in view of a need to balance competing needs against limited resources. That the leadership should strive to inculcate in community members a sense of understanding multiple factors taken into consideration to prepare budget, and the fact that not all interests will be met at a time, thus a need for trade-offs where required. Management was once again commended for arriving at a balanced budget in the midst of various challenges faced by the City of eThekweni.

Following discussion, the ANC (04) and the NFP (01) supported the budget, appreciating the consideration given to listen to the people of eThekweni regarding the tariffs increases. On the other hand, the EFF (01) and the IFP (01) abstained at this stage to present the budget to their respective Caucuses. The DA voted against the budget.

Accordingly, the budget was, by the majority vote, supported by the Executive Committee.

In view of the foregoing,

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

- 1.1 That the following resolutions approving the 2024/25 – 2026/27 MTREF of the eThekweni Municipality and its entities tabled in terms of Section 24 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), are submitted to the Budget Steering Committee / Executive Committee for consideration and adjustment where necessary.
- 1.2 That note be taken of the contents of the budget documentation circulated in accordance with the Municipal Finance Management Act, No.56 of 2003.
- 1.3 Estimates of Income and Expenditure:
 - 1.3.1 That in terms of Section 24 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003, the annual budget of the municipality for the financial year 2024/25; and indicative allocations for the two projected outer years 2025/26 and 2026/27; and the multi-year and single year capital appropriations are approved as set-out in the following tables of the budget document:
 - Budgeted Financial Performance (Revenue & Expenditure by Standard Classification) **(Table A2; Page 92)**
 - Budgeted Financial Performance (Revenue and Expenditure by Municipal Vote) **(Table A3; Page 93)**
 - Budgeted Financial Performance (Revenue by Source and Expenditure by Type) **(Table A4; Page 94)**
 - Multi-year and single year capital appropriations by municipal vote and standard classification and associated funding by source **(Table A5; Page 95)**
 - 1.3.2 That the financial position, cash flow, cash-backed reserve/accumulated surplus, asset management and basic service delivery targets are adopted as set out in the following tables:
 - Budgeted Financial Position **(Table A6; Page 97)**
 - Budgeted Cash Flows **(Table A7; Page 99)**
 - Asset Management **(Table A9; Pages 101-102)**
 - Basic Service Delivery Measurement **(Table A10; Page 104)**
- 1.4 Municipal Entities:
 - 1.4.1 That the Municipal Entities budget as reflected on pages 280 to 302 be approved.
 - 1.4.2 That the amount of R60m over the MTREF allocated to ICC (Pty)Ltd and project authority be granted for the cooling system.
- 1.5 Recapitulation: Valuation of Rateable Property:
 - 1.5.1 That it be recorded that the recapitulation certificate summarising the valuations of rateable property, as certified by the City Valuer.

- 1.5.2 The following resolutions, pertaining to property rates (items 1.6 to 1.11) and in conformity with the provisions of Section 14 of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004 and Sections 17 (3) (a) (ii) and 24 (2) (c) (i) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003, be adopted.

1.6 Determination of Rates:

- 1.6.1 In terms of Section 8 of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 read together with the eThekweni Municipal Rates Policy, as amended, and to be adopted with the current budget, the Municipality may levy different Rates for different categories of Property.

- 1.6.2 The proposed rate randage for the financial year 2024/2025, be revised as set out below and levied in respect of the following categories at:

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY	Current Budget 2023/24 Cents in the Rand	2024/25 Cents in the Rand	2025/26 Cents in the Rand	2026/27 Cents in the Rand
Agricultural	0.3191	0.3393	0.3627	0.3877
Business & Commercial	3.2271	3.4466	3.6845	3.9387
Outside Urban Development Line	2.0984	2.2308	2.3847	2.5493
Industrial	4.1643	4.4494	4.7564	5.0846
Public Service Infrastructure (PSI)	0.3191	0.3393	0.3627	0.3877
Residential	1.2765	1.3570	1.4507	1.5508
Unauthorised/ Abandoned/ Illegal Usage	23.6728	24.8328	26.5462	28.3779
Vacant Land***	8.3855	8.9155	09.5307	10.1883
Sectional Title Registered Real Rights of extension	8.3855	8.9155	9.5307	10.1883
Mining property	4.1643	4.4494	4.7564	5.0846
Public Service Purpose (PSP)	3.2271	3.4466	3.6845	3.9387
Public Benefit Activities (PBA)	0.3191	0.3393	0.3627	0.3877

Multiple-Use Property will be dealt with in accordance with the Rates Policy.

1.7 Exemptions, Rebates and Reductions:

That the following reductions on the market value of the property and rebates on the rates payable, be and are hereby granted in accordance with the Municipal Rates Policy.

1.7.1 Residential Property:

That in addition to the statutory reduction of R15 000, a further reduction of R105 000 be and is hereby approved for property values exceeding R350 000.

1.7.1.1 Indigent Households:

1.7.1.1.1 That all residential properties with a market value of R350 000 and less, as assigned in the valuation roll or supplementary valuation roll, be recognized as indigent households for the purposes of relief contemplated in the Indigent Policy and qualify for a 100% exemption from rates.

1.7.1.1.2 That residential households with a property market value of R650 000 and below of which the aggregate monthly household income is R7,000 or less, be eligible to apply for registration as an indigent household under the Indigent Policy, provided all criteria set in the Indigent Policy is met.

1.7.2 Public Benefit Organisations:

1.7.2.1 That on application and approval, only Public Benefit Organisations listed in Clause 7.5 of the Municipal Rates Policy 2024/2025 shall receive an exemption from rates.

1.7.2.2 That it be recorded that Public Benefit Organisations that do not qualify for exemption from rates in terms of (1.7.2.1 above), shall be rated in accordance with the Municipal Property Rates Regulations on the Rate Ratio between Residential and Non-Residential Categories of Property published in Notice R195 dated 12 March 2010, namely at no more than 25% of the residential property rate-in-the-rand. Expressed as a ratio in relation to residential property, this is 1:0.25.

1.7.3 Senior Citizens, Disability Grantees / Medically Boarded Persons and Child Headed Households:

1.7.3.1 That where a property is not exempt from rates in terms of (1.7.1.1 above), a rebate not exceeding R5 770 or such lesser amount as may otherwise be payable, be and is hereby approved in addition to the reduction stipulated in (1.7.1 above) for qualifying Senior Citizens, disability grantees / medically boarded persons and child headed households as defined in the rates policy.

1.7.3.2 That it be and is hereby resolved to place a maximum limit of - R2.5 Million on the value of the property, in order to qualify for the Senior Citizens rebate in (1.7.3.1 above).

1.7.3.3 That it be and is hereby resolved that a rebate under Clause 7.2.2.4 of the rates policy may be granted to qualifying Senior Citizens who are trustees in a trust, notwithstanding that an independent professional person also holds office as a trustee and does not meet the qualifying criteria.

1.7.3.4 That it be and is hereby resolved that, for the purposes of Clause 7.4.2.3 (Child Headed Households) of the Rates Policy and the rebate contemplated in (1.7.3.1 above), no threshold limit be imposed on the value of the property.

1.7.4 Life Rights Schemes and Retirement Complexes:

That on application and approval, a 25% rebate be granted to qualifying Life Rights Schemes and Retirement Complexes registered in terms of the Housing Development Scheme for Retired Persons Act 65 of 1988.

1.7.5 Schools Not for Gain:

That a rebate of 50% be and is hereby granted to qualifying schools not for gain.

1.7.6 Bed & Breakfasts Undertakings:

That on application and approval a rebate of 35% be granted to all bed & breakfast establishments that satisfy the requirements of the Municipal Rates Policy, as amended.

1.7.7 Back-Packer Lodges, Holiday Accommodation and Student Accommodation:

1.7.7.1 That on application and approval, the following rebates shall apply to Back-packer establishments that satisfy the requirements of the Municipal Rates Policy, as amended:

- a) Where up to 40 beds are available to guests, a rebate not exceeding 50% will apply.
- b) Where up to 80 beds are available to guests, a rebate not exceeding 25% will apply.

1.7.7.2 That on application and approval, property let out for the purposes of Holiday Accommodation, be granted a rebate of 35%.

1.7.7.3 That on application and approval, property let out for the purposes of Student Accommodation, be granted a rebate of 25%.

1.7.7.4 That the rebate for Student Accommodation be restricted to those properties that are located within areas identified in the Municipality's Land Use Scheme as being suitable for student accommodation. Where properties are owned by an Organ of State, the Organ of State must be registered as an institution of Higher Learning.

1.7.8 Disasters:

1.7.8.1 That properties that have been damaged by a disaster, as defined in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 may be revalued provided an application is made within sixty (60) days from the date of such disaster.

1.7.8.2 That on application and approval, a temporary rebate of 75% be granted in respect of property damaged by causes other than those defined by the Disaster Management Act, 2002, as contemplated in Clause 7.11.1 of the Municipal Rates Policy; for a period of six months or a portion thereof.

- 1.7.8.3 That on application and approval, a further temporary rebate of 75% be granted thereafter in respect of property referred to in Clause 7.11.1 of the Municipal Rates Policy for a period not exceeding six months provided an application is made within forty-five (45) days prior to the expiry of the six-month period.
- 1.7.8.4 That the rebate is granted on the category of property prior to damage.
- 1.7.8.5 That the Municipal Council may determine if a rebate is to be granted in relation to a disaster as envisaged in 7.11.1 of the Municipal Rates Policy. In this regard a special rebate be allowed.
- 1.7.8.6 An application for rebate must be made within one hundred and eighty days (180) days from the date of the disaster.
- 1.7.9 Vacant Land:
- 1.7.9.1 That the reduction of R30 000 on the market value of Vacant Land as defined in the amended Rates Policy, be granted.
- 1.7.9.2 That on application and approval, property categorised as vacant land, be granted a rebate of 10%.
- 1.7.10 Properties in the Ownership of the Municipality or Municipal Entities or Held in Trust the Municipality:
- 1.7.10.1 That all municipal owned properties are exempted from property rates, except for Trading Services and municipal owned properties where the Municipality has entered into an agreement with any person, indicating otherwise.
- 1.7.10.2 That a rebate of 63% be and is hereby granted to the International Convention Centre in respect of property rates payable to the Municipality.
- 1.7.10.3 Properties held in trust in perpetuity by the Municipality in terms of a testamentary trust and where municipal officials hold letters of authority in terms of the Trust Property Control Act, 1988 (Act No.57 of 1988) are exempted from rates unless an agreement between the Municipality and any person specifies the contrary.
- 1.7.11 Nature Reserves and Conservation Areas:
- 1.7.11.1 That on application and approval:
- (i) Nature reserves and conservation areas shall be exempted from rates.
 - (ii) The Council may grant a rebate or reduction up to 25% in respect of an environmentally sensitive land as identified in the Municipal Land Use Scheme.
- 1.7.12 Economic Development:
- 1.7.12.1 Economic Development Incentives applicable to valid and subsisting Rates Rebate Agreements concluded in the 2015-2016 to 2019-2020 financial years in accordance with Clauses 14.1-14.6 of the Rates Policy, as amended from time to time-

(i) Greenfield Developments in Priority Areas:

That all non-residential developments which are located in Priority Areas, shall continue to receive a rebate limited to the difference between the Vacant Land rate randage and that of the intended use of the developed land-until such time as the respective Agreements expire by effluxion of time or are terminated.

(ii) Brownfield Developments in Priority Areas:

That all non-residential developments which are located in Priority Areas shall continue to receive a rebate based on the value of the development as per the table below until such time as the respective Agreements expire by effluxion of time or are terminated:

VALUE OF DEVELOPMENT R (MILLIONS)	PERCENTAGE REBATE ON RATES
0 - 50	15%
51 – 150	25%
151 – 300	50%
301 and above	65%

1.7.12.2

Economic Development Investment Incentives Applicable:

That subject to compliance with criteria contained in the Economic Development Incentive Policy read together, where applicable, with the Rates Policy, a rebate may be allowed for the following identified investment categories (i.e Investment Value, Jobs Created, Targeted Sector, Spatial Priority). The rebate will be per property for greenfield and brownfield developments in commercial, industrial or multiple use developments.

The maximum rebate available will be the aggregate of the percentage rebates assigned to the qualifying criteria as set out in the table below:

Qualifying Criteria and Formula approved as part of the City’s Budget Process:

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	INVESTMENT VALUE	MAXIMUM %AGE REBATE
Investment Value	New investment in any Industrial or Commercial or Mix Use Property Development.	R<1million – R299 million; or	10%
		>R300 million	20%
Jobs Created	FTE Jobs Created calculated post construction in new investment in any Sector for a maximum 3-year period.	All-inclusive values	
	• 20-250 jobs		10%
	• 251 jobs and above.		20%

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	INVESTMENT VALUE	MAXIMUM %AGE REBATE
Targeted Sectors	Investment in Targeted Sectors as defined in the eThekweni Economic Strategy 2022 to 2027	All-inclusive values	40%
Spatial Priority: Secondary Economic Nodes, Former Township Areas; Transit Oriented Development Nodes, Prime Investment Corridor, Urban Zones, Bespoke Inner City & Surrounding Areas and Densification Zones.	Investment in Spatial Priority Area. As defined in the City's Spatial Development Plan & the eThekweni Economic Strategy 2022 to 2027	All-inclusive values.	20%

- (i) The incentive policy will not be implemented retrospectively but rebates as stated herein will be implemented for a maximum period of 3-years from date of approval or as approved from the date post construction. Applicants are required to submit an application by 31st January as per Section 14.11 of the Rates Policy, thereby allowing the Municipality to budget accordingly in anticipation of approval.
- (ii) The incentive is not available to residential property which has not been identified within the Densification Strategy and the Inner-City LAP of the City.

1.7.13 Special Rating Areas:

- 1.7.13.1 That the existing Special Rating Areas as indicated in Annexure A be hereby noted.
- 1.7.13.2 That in respect of the Special Rating Areas, additional rates, as indicated in Annexure A hereto, be approved and levied (subject to any exclusions or exemptions determined in the Municipal Rates Policy) in respect of each category of rateable property within the boundaries of the Special Rating Area.
- 1.7.13.3 That it be noted that in accordance with Clause 9.2.1.3 of the Municipality's Rates Policy, the Additional Rate contemplated in terms of section 22 of the Act may not exceed 25% of the municipal rates payable by the registered owner of a rateable property.

1.7.14 Consulates:

That property owned by Consulates be valued and rates be raised and recovered from the Department of International Relations and Co-operation in terms of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act 2001 (Act 37 of 2001).

1.8 Phasing in of Rates:

A rate levied on property belonging to a Land Reform Beneficiary or his or her heirs must, after ten years from the date on which such beneficiary's title was registered in the office of the Registrar of Deeds, be phased in over a period of three financial years.

1.9 Threshold Values Determined in Terms of the Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy:

1.9.1 That the threshold value determined in terms of Clause 6.5 with regards to the payments made by debit card or credit card be set at a maximum amount to be determined by the CFO;

1.9.2 That the percentage payable to employers where they deduct rates and or other municipal charges as per Clause 11.3 be set at 2.5% on the total amount deducted monthly;

1.9.3 That the property threshold for debt relief as per Clause 15.2(c) be set at R350 000.00 of the market value of the property as recorded in the Municipal Valuation Roll;

1.9.4 That the property value for the adjustment of water losses as per Clause 16.4 be set at R500 000.00;

1.9.5 That the property threshold for the prepayment recovery as per Clause 20.2 be set at R350 000.00.

1.9.6 That the property threshold value for which the Municipality will not attach the primary property for judgement debt as per Clause 22.3 be set at R650 000.00.

1.10 Date of Operation of Determination of Rates:

That this determination comes into operation on 1 July 2024.

1.11 Final Date for Payment of Rates:

1.11.1 Where rates are payable in monthly instalments, such payments shall be in twelve (12) equal or near equal instalments payable 21 days from the date of account.

1.11.2 Where rates are payable annually the final date for payment shall be 31 October 2024, provided that where this date falls on a Sunday or public holiday payment shall occur on the last working day prior to such Sunday or public holiday.

1.12 Administration Charge on Arrear Debts:

That the administration charge on arrear debts as referred to in Clause 9.8 of the Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy is determined at 10%. Collection of arrear debts is in accordance with the Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy.

1.13 Interest on Arrears:

That the interest rate to be applied to arrear accounts with effect 1 July 2024, shall be the interest rate as prescribed by Regulation 9 of the Municipal Property Rates Regulations, 2006.

1.14 Other Tariffs and Charges:

That other tariffs and charges as circulated with the budget document in terms of Section 24(2)(c)(i) be approved for the financial year commencing 1 July 2024.

1.14.1 Rural Sustainable Services Charge:

1.14.1.1 That it be and is hereby resolved to charge a flat Rural Sustainable Services charge from each rural property as follows:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| a) | Households (residential property) | R100 (VAT exclusive) |
| b) | Churches and Non-Profit Organizations | R100 (VAT exclusive) |
| c) | Businesses and Commercial properties | R1000 (VAT exclusive) |
| d) | Government and Organ of State properties | R1000 (VAT exclusive) |

1.14.2 Infrastructure Surcharge:

1.14.2.1 That an additional infrastructure surcharge of R1,50/kl for water be charged for the three (3) financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 in conjunction with the base tariffs in the report WS2022/036 (Potable Water and Sundry Water Tariffs for the 2024/25 Financial Year).

1.14.2.2 That an additional infrastructure surcharge of R1,50/kl for sewage disposal be charged for the three (3) financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 in conjunction with the base tariffs in the report WS2022/037 (Sewage Disposal Usercharge and Sundry Tariffs for the 2024/25 Financial Year)

1.15 Domestic Water Debt Relief Program:

That it be and is hereby resolved to place a maximum limit of R 350 000 on the rateable value of the property in order to qualify for the Water Debt Relief Program.

1.16 BUDGET RELATED POLICIES:

1.16.1 Rates Policy:

The Property Rates Policy has been reviewed for the 2024/25 financial year, as required in terms of Section 5 of the Municipal Property Rates Act (MPRA), and the amended policy was adopted in principle by Council on 2024- 01-31, for public participation with a closing date of 15 March 2024. The policy was further amended after taking into consideration public comments. The amended Policy is to be submitted to Council with the Budget.

1.16.2 Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy:

1.16.2.1 The primary objective of this policy is to ensure that all monies due and payable to the municipality in respect of services are collected efficiently and promptly. The City's Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy provides the procedures and mechanisms for credit control and for the collection of debts.

1.16.2.2 As required in terms of Section 97 of the Municipal Systems Act, the Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy for the 2024/25 financial year has been reviewed. The policy amendments were approved by the Council on 22 March 2024.

1.16.3 Tariff Policy:

1.16.3.1 The Municipal Systems Act requires a Municipality to have a Tariff Policy on the levying of fees for services provided by the municipality itself or by way of service delivery agreement, and which complies with the provisions of that Act, the Municipal Finance Management Act and other applicable legislation.

1.16.3.2 The policy has been reviewed for the 2024/25 financial year and the Policy amendments were approved by Council on 18 March 2024 .

1.16.4 Funding and Reserves Policy:

A funding and reserves policy has been formulated and was approved by council at its meeting on 2010-05-03. The policy is aimed at ensuring that the Municipality procures sufficient and cost-effective funding in order to achieve its capital expenditure objectives in an optimum manner.

1.16.5 Budget Policy:

There were no amendments to the Budget Policy which was approved by Council on 23 February 2011.

1.16.6 Investment / Cash Management and Borrowing Policies:

1.16.6.1 As required by the Municipal Finance Management Act, and in conformity with the Municipal Cash Management Regulations, the Investment Framework policy and Guidelines has been reviewed. The policy was last reviewed on 2023-06-26 with the proposed changes to be submitted to Council for approval.

1.16.6.2 The borrowing Framework Policy and Guideline has also been reviewed. The policy was last reviewed on 2023-06-26 with the proposed changes to be submitted to Council for approval.

1.16.7 Supply Chain Management Policy:

1.16.7.1 The 2023 Policy has been reviewed and amended to enable the procurement of goods and services to be within the new prescribed thresholds for formal written price quotations and for competitive bidding process in line with National Treasury's revised threshold values for the procurement of goods and services.

1.16.7.2 The amendments to the SCM Policy 2023 were approved and adopted by Council on 12 March 2024.

1.16.8 Indigent Policy:

1.16.8.1 This is a pro poor policy that extends relief to the indigent customers whose monthly total household income does not exceed R 7 000. The provision of the indigent support is in accordance with Section 74(2)(c) of the Municipal Systems Act, which requires that poor households must have access to at least basic services.

1.16.8.2 The policy has been reviewed for the 2024/25 financial year and the amendments to the policy were approved by Council on 22 March 2024.

1.16.9 Other Budget Related Policies:

That in terms of Section 24(2)(c)(v) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003, there are no proposed amendments to any other budget related policies.

1.17 Capital Expenditure Estimate:

1.17.1 That in those instances where information has been provided in terms of Section 19(2)(b) of the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, together with project procurement scheduling, the approval of the capital budget constitutes project approval for the specific projects as reflected in the detailed capital budget. It being noted that project budgets will be re-prioritised if departments fail to submit their project procurement schedules.

1.17.2 Where information in terms of Section 19(2)(b) is not provided, specific project approval is to be sought from Municipal Council during the year and that approval by Municipal Council be given only if the report seeking approval is accompanied by the specific project procurement schedule. All Capital projects must have QAC and Architecture Unit Approval (where applicable) for inclusion in the budget.

1.17.3 That the borrowing to fund capital budget be R1.5bn to deal with infrastructure projects and R 1bn per annum for the outer 2 years.

1.17.4 That Project authority be granted for the Projects listed on Annexure B, that are not funded or partially funded subject to savings being identified during the year or Section 33 of the MFMA being complied with, if funding is beyond the MTREF.

1.17.5 That the capital budget procurement process commences with the approval in-principle of the tabled budget.

1.17.6 That authority be granted for projects from Programme and Project preparation support grant (PPPSG) with positive return on investments (ROI), to be considered for approval subject to the identification of savings being identified during the years.

1.17.7 That Service delivery should not be compromised, ward-based projects be accelerated per zonal plans allocation and the visibility of service delivery must be ensured. Zonal Plans allocation will be R1 Million for all wards except the disadvantaged wards that will share the balance in order to address service delivery backlogs.

1.18 Borrowings to Finance the Capital Budget:

That authority be sought from Municipal Council for the raising of appropriate long-term debt in terms of Section 46 of the Municipal Finance Management Act No 56 of 2003, to finance in part the municipality's capital budget over the MTREF period. In this regard authority is sought for an amount of R1.5 Billion for 2024/25 and R 1 Billion per annum for each of the outer years of the MTREF period.

1.19 New Functions/ Services:

That no new functions or service be introduced without specific approval thereto by the Council after full consideration of the effect thereof on the municipality's Budget. In addition, the budgets pertaining to new functions or services can only be approved in principle and thereafter would have to be prioritised in terms of the Integrated Development Plan together with all other submissions that have been received.

1.20 Measurable Performance Objectives:

That in terms of Section 24(2)(c)(iii) of the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, the measurable performance objectives for capital and operating expenditure by vote for each year of the medium-term revenue and expenditure framework as set out in **Table SA7 (Page 166)** be approved.

1.21 Integrated Development Plan (IDP):

That the draft reviewed Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) tabled with the budget in terms of Section 17(3)(d) of the Municipal Finance Management Act No.56 of 2003, it being recorded that the annual review process as prescribed in terms of Section 34 of the Municipal Systems Act, is continuing and that a report to the Executive Committee will be submitted on completion of the consultative process.

1.22 Particulars of Investments:

That in terms of Section 17 (3) (f) of the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, particulars of the municipality's investments are reflected in **Tables SA15 - SA16 (Pages 177 - 178)**

1.23 Remuneration of Councillors and Senior Officials:

That in terms of Section 17(3)(k) of the Municipal Finance Management Act No.56 of 2003 that the proposed cost to Council of the salary, allowances and benefits of each political office bearer, councillor and senior officials of the municipality and its entities, is reflected in **Table SA23 (Page 185)**

1.24 Housing/Hostels Deficit:

1.24.1 That the estimated Formal Housing Deficit of R63.2 Million for the 2024/2025 financial year be met from the Rate Fund.

1.24.2 That the estimated New Development Housing and Hostels deficit of R299 Million be funded from the Rate Fund.

1.24.3 That appropriate interventions be escalated by the Executive Committee including, inter alia, the phased introduction of economic rentals, the constructive engagement of the Provincial State Authorities to secure additional funding and develop / introduce strategies to reduce electricity and water consumption.

1.25 Unfunded Mandates:

That the eThekweni municipality make representation to the Provincial and National Government regarding unfunded mandates presently undertaken by the Municipality with a view to securing funding for and handing over of these services in terms of the mandates as stipulated by the Constitution. Develop an interim approach on addressing unfunded mandates based on Rand for Rand.

The cost of unfunded mandates is set out hereunder:

DETAILS	<u>BUDGET 2024/25</u>
	<u>R M</u>
Libraries	416.3
Health – Other than municipal health services	172.2
Museums	88.8
Housing: New Development and Hostels	302.3
Formal Housing	63.9
TOTAL	1 043.5

1.26 Impact of Housing Expenditure on the Cash Reserves:

1.26.1 That municipality makes further representation regarding expenditure incurred in previous years by the municipality amounting to R4.8bn for the construction and provision of housing done on an agency basis on behalf of the KZN Department of Human Settlements (KZN DOHS)

1.26.2 In addition, in order to avoid the cash reserves dropping below prudent levels that could negatively impact our good credit rating, the municipality only implement KZN DOHS approved housing projects and implementation (incl. invoicing and submission of claims to KZN DOHS) of these approved projects to be in line with the approved KZN DOHS budget and cash flows. It should be noted that the City has taken a decision to align project cashflows with KZN DOHS, which has proven to be impractical owing to the misalignment of financial years. The three months overlap continuously creates a gap, in which the MTREF view may need to be incorporated, to enable mid-term financial decisions.

1.27 Expenditure Control, Austerity Measures & Tariffs in the Current State of the Economy:

1.27.1 That in view of the current economic climate further austerity measures be considered and that all departments review their expenditure and ensure that municipality is getting best value for all expenditure.

1.27.2 That in view of water, sanitation and electricity increases and the decreasing volumes of sales over the past few financial years, the sustainability of these services need to be closely monitored. Tariff structures as well as alternate sources of revenue need to be considered together with the improved effectiveness of spend.

1.27.3 The security tender be urgently finalized, the right sizing of services done and replacement of services with electronics be considered.

- 1.27.4 That Cost containment regulations be strictly adhered to iro cost containment with regard to travel, entertainment, eventing, consultants etc.
- 1.27.5 That urgent interventions be put in place to improve the collection rates in hostels and that appropriate sanctions be considered to enforce payment.
- 1.27.6 That Manager's closely monitor the use of municipality vehicles and ensure that all trips are justified and in the best interest of municipality. i.e., Effective and efficient use of Fleet across the city
- 1.28 Free Basic Services:
- 1.28.1 That the Free Basic Services Package as set out on **page 117** is approved for the budget year 2024/2025.
- 1.28.2 That in view of the sustainability of providing free basic services a flat rate for services be considered so that costs will be recovered based on prepaid electricity sales as a matter of urgency.
- 1.29 Off Balance Sheet Financing:
- That approval in principle be granted for alternate financing options/models to be considered, incorporating but not limited to Sect 33 (Contracts having future budgetary implications) of the MFMA type arrangements, to finance major infrastructure works requiring significant capital sums over several years where risks and rewards are equitably shared between the municipality and its chosen partner/s. Each specific project will be submitted to Council for consideration.
- 1.30 Food Aid Program (Soup Kitchens):
- 1.30.1 That in order to assist the municipality in its food aid program and maximize this service, this programme has been developed as an intervention that aims to relieve the impact of poverty and to assist people to escape the cycle of poverty and indigence.
- 1.30.2 The programme benefits about 550 beneficiaries per day per site. There are currently 87 functional sites spread across the municipality with plans to expand this to 94 sites in the 2024-25 financial year.
- 1.30.3 This programme is funded with an operational budget of R137m in the 2024-25 financial year which covers the cost of groceries, bread, gas, stipends, and other sundry operations expenses.
- 1.30.4 In order to sustain this programme, public-private partnerships will be explored with other external role-players such as NGOs and religious organisations.
- 1.31 Destination Marketing Programs:
- 1.31.1 That Council approves the hosting of the destination marketing programs as budgeted for.

1.31.2 That be recorded that:

- a) In addition to the global impact of Covid that affected the tourism sector, the tourism sector of Durban was further affected by unique disasters.
- b) The 2021 July Unrest affected the destination's tourism economy and brand which reduced visitors' confidence to choose the destination resulting in visitor numbers declined.
- c) As depicted in TABLE A, for 2 consecutive years, the performance of the eThekweni Municipality Industry was on the decline.

TABLE A:

Number of Visitors	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Domestic overnight	3 458 211	3 376 504	3 545 534	1 664 127	2 082 176
International overnight	339 007	281 040	283 604	69 553	58 271
Total overnight visitors	3 797 218	3 657 544	3 829 138	1 733 680	2 140 447
Day visitors	1 286 052	1 256 029	1 273 308	823 386	1 133 131
Total visitors	5 083 270	4 913 573	5 102 446	2 557 066	2 273 578

- d) The relation festive season decline trend was observed in past 3 years as depicted in TABLE B and the recovery from that, is as per strategic focus of national and international destination promotion programmes, media partnerships and business tourism through MECE. The decline included the loss of domestic market share which is the biggest portion of visitors segment for Durban.

TABLE B:

SEASON ECONOMIC IMPACT TREND: 2020/2021; 2021/2022 AND 2022/2023			
	Festive Season 2020/21	Festive Season 2021/22	Festive Season 2022/23
Accommodation Occupancy	55%	68%	60%
Number of Visitors	313 893 (ON 207 125 , Day 97 307)	781 707 (ON 547 195, Day 234 512)	329 588 (ON 222 820, Day 136 731)
Direct spend (R' million)	R522 471 574	R1 276 715 053	R548 595 153
GDP contribution (R' million)	R 1 292 588 782	R3 191 787 632	R1 371 487 883
Employment contribution (permanent)	2 886	6 782	3 031
	4000 (temp)	11000 (temp)	4000 (temp)
Government taxes (R' million)	R 96 411 870	R 235 592 695	R101 232 464

- e) As part of tourism recovery, after much tourism sector consultation, the eThekweni Municipality in October 2022 adopted a 5-year Durban Tourism Visitor Marketing Strategy of 2022 to 2026.

- f) This is with a strategic focus of re-igniting the tourism economy locally and internally through, leisure tourism through regular holiday makers and leisure events and business tourism through MECE – (Meetings, Exhibitions, Conferences/ Conventions and Events).
- g) The MECE tourism focus is important to close keep the tourism economy in off-peak seasons with no holiday makers.
- h) As aligned to the adopted Durban Visitor Marketing Strategy, it is for this reason that the focus of the destination promotion and marketing programmes was to attract, partner and stage programmes that will boost destination tourism and recovery as well as achieve the strategic objectives of:
 - i) Attracts national, regional and international visitors and increase visitor numbers during both at peak and off-peak season
 - ii) Boost accommodation occupancy in tourism products
 - iii) Profiles destination through pre, during and post promotion in Public Relations Value.
 - iv) Increase the length of stay to the destination
 - v) Destination Brand and holistic experience exposure
 - vi) National, regional and international Media Exposure and Media leveraging
 - vii) Trade Relations for further leveraging without additional costs to the City.
 - viii) Economic Boost for the City within the value chain of tourism products
 - xi) Increase contribution to government taxes and rates
 - x) Job creation in the tourism dynamic value chain.
- i) The TABLE C reflects the projected performance of the eThekweni Municipality industry from the holistic execution of what all the focus areas of the adopted Durban Visitor Marketing Strategy.

TABLE C

PROJECTED PERFORMANCE AREAS & TARGETS : 2022 – 2026

Domestic Tourism Base Case

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of tourists	2 768 066	2 941 070	2 999 892	3 059 890	3 121 087
% Growth	32.9%	6.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
% Of pre-COVID average (2017-2019)	80%	85%	87%	88%	90%
Total direct expenditure (billions)	R5.7	R6.3	R6.7	R7.2	R7.7

International Tourism Base Case

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of tourists	123 093	184 639	246 186	246 186	346 787
% growth	111.2%	50.0%	33.3%	0.0%	40.9%
% of pre-COVID average	40%	60%	80%	80%	N/A
% share of total tourists to eThekweni	4%	6%	8%	7%	10%
Total direct expenditure (billions)	R0.79	R1.21	R1.63	R1.66	R2.37

- i) To align with the strategic objectives of the Council adopted Durban Visitor Marketing Strategy, the destination promotion and marketing programs selection will be also guided by the categorization listed in TABLE D below.

TABLE D:

No.	Destination Promotion Programme Categorization	Description
1	Category A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has a national, regional, and international footprint in attracting visitors These category programmes are important for the rejuvenating peak season of Easters and festive season as it helps Durban to bring in visitors as they choose Durban instead of any other competitor holiday destination. Attracts visitors to come to Durban to attend and spend a minimum of 3 days in Durban. Visitors make a travel decision to come to Durban to attend the event and explore other tourism attractions of Durban. It also attracts a high LSM that spend money in Durban various tourism value chain, shopping, restaurants and it is the market that wants exclusive type of entertainment. This category also helps promote the destination through their influential marketing plan, Event owners are influential, and generally goes beyond one event beneficiation but has pre activations that also boost the tourism economy especially in townships.
2	Category B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has a local footprint of visitors coming from outside Durban but within the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. They boost occupancy but at a low scale. The type of attendees it attracts are not big spenders. It is an event that does not necessary influence an out-of-town visitor to come to Durban but it becomes and entertainment option for visitors when they are already in Durban. to come to Durban to attend and spend days in Durban. The attendees are generally people that do use many tourism value products of accommodations, shuttle services, restaurants, fine dining It attracts a mid to lower LSM that are generally not big spenders and not seeking exclusive type of entertainment. Due to the nature of their marketing plan, this category generally requires marketing support and other value in Kind support from the City.
3	Category C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has a local footprint of visitors that is mostly Durbanites not from out of town. It is an event that does not necessary influence an out-of-town visitor to come to Durban but it becomes and entertainment option locals that are generally in the communities and not booking tourism accommodation. The attendees are generally people that do not use much of tourism value products of accommodations, shuttle services, restaurants, fine dining as they are local. It attracts a lower LSM that are generally not big spenders and not seeking exclusive type of entertainment. Due to the nature of their marketing plan, this category generally requires a lot of marketing support and other value in Kind support from the City. There is minimal leveraging benefits of media leveraging, brand exposure form their self-funded robust marketing

No.	Destination Promotion Programme Categorization	Description
4	Business Tourism (Meetings, Exhibition, Conference/Convention, Events-MECE)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A great tourism booster with visitor numbers on of peak seasons through business visitors and accompanying spouses. 2. Boost accommodation occupancy as MECE delegates and visitors 3. A great booster for job creation in the tourism value chain including MECE- convention centres, shuttles services, tour operators through MECE pre and post tours. 4. Media leveraging and exposure as MECE venture has international media 5. Increase length of stay by attendees as MECE are staged and hosted in Durban for a minimum of 3 days excluding day of arrival for set up and days of free time or/and free time 6. Stimulates repeat visits as MECE attendees from business tourism travel will return to destination for leisure with family. 7. Bulk high MECE visitor spend as these are generally subsidized by their businesses not from their personal disposable income.

Financial provisions – R41 Million (2024/25), R43.1 Million (2025/2026), R45,2 Million (2026/2027)

k) It is accordingly recommended:

- i) That Council provisionally approves the hosting of the destination promotion and marketing programs as budgeted for and indicated on **Annexure C** subject to programmes fulfilling the objectives of the strategy as listed in Section 1.8 and TABLE D.
- ii) That Council grants authority for the City Manager to bid and secure international and national business tourism MECE Programmes to host in the City during off peak season that fulfill the objectives of the strategy as listed in Section 1.8 and TABLE D.
- iii) The unit to submit a report to the standing committee with the final programmes listed and selected against the criteria of responding to the strategic objectives of re-igniting tourism as per list strategic focus and also demonstrable benefit to the city in line with extent of contributing to the targets of the Council adopted Durban Visitor Marketing Strategy for noting.
- iv) That authority be granted to the City Manager to negotiate benefits and rights to leverage the destination and profile Durban with the organizers.
- v) That authority be granted to the City Manager to conclude contracts with the owners in terms of the partnership investment

1.32 AFRICA RESURGENCE CONFERENCE

1.32.1 Strategic Objectives:

The South Africa – United States and Africa Resurgence Conference 2024 is planned to be held in Durban at the Durban ICC on 18 - 21 July 2024. It is also planned that this forum will bring alongside the key political leadership of the City of New York; executives of the U.S Small Business Administration, key government agencies both in the US and Africa, corporations, faith and community institutions.

EThekweni Municipality has, through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), and South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) identified a need for transformation of the social economy. Thus, it is important to identify mutual cooperation between cities to facilitate change particularly on areas of trade, market identification and exchange programmes for economic emancipation for the previously marginalized.

The programme will provide a unique opportunity for close interaction between investors, exporting companies and potential buyers to explore effective ways of forging partnerships and increasing trade and investment between South Africa, the United States and Africa. Targeted sectors include Agroprocessing, Automotive, Chemicals, Entertainment, The Green Economy, Healthcare, ICT & Innovation, Infrastructure, Mining, Rail, Retail, Creative Industries and Petrochemicals, and others.

Furthermore, this conference will serve as a prelude to the official launching of South Africa – Africa and the United States Joint Business Initiatives, created with the objective to promote and strengthen the commercial relations between the continent of Africa and the United States with a particular focus on sustainability, trade and investment in Durban.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council

- 1.32.1.1 Approves the hosting of Resurgence Conference 2024, for which activations have already been approved for implementation during the 2023/2024 financial year.
- 1.32.1.2 Notes the economic value projected from the hosting of the conference.
- 1.32.1.3 Subject to adoption of .1.1 above, the Council notes that the Resurgence Conference 2024 is scheduled to take place in Durban during the month of July 2024 and that same is included as part of the events for the City.
- 1.32.1.4 Authorize City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the services providers to host the Resurgence Conference 2024 in Durban from the 18th to 21st July 2024.
- 1.32.1.5 The Deputy City Manager: Economic Development & Planning Cluster be directed to submit a report to the Committee on progress, including the final programme prior to implementation.

TABLE A:

Projections of the Economic Value for Hosting the Resurgence Conference:

DESCRIPTION	VALUES
Occupancy – Hotels and other accommodations average	90% Hotels and 70% overall occupancy
Total number of delegates	4 000
Total Spend	R26, 000, 000.00
Contribution to City's GDP	R80 000 000.00
Employment Opportunities	150

DESCRIPTION	VALUES
Industry buyers	500
Countries to attend the conference	5
Number of SMME's to benefit from conference	1000
Potential foreign direct investment	R100 000 000.00

Financial provision 2024-2025 – R17 000 000

1.33 Additional Recommendations:

- 1.33.1 That whilst we have provided for a 5.2% increase in salaries and a further R220 Million for performance notch increases, this will only be payable subject to affordability.
- 1.33.2 That the average Electricity Tariff increase of 12.72%.
- 1.33.3 That it be noted that the Water tariff increase is at 12.9% for Domestic consumers and 12.9% for Business consumers. The bulk purchase increase from Umngeni Water Board is 9.5%.
- 1.33.4 That it be noted that the Sanitation tariff increase is at 10.9% for Domestic consumers and 10.9% for Business consumers. The bulk purchase increase from Umngeni Water Board is 9.5%.
- 1.33.5 That it be noted that the refuse user charge tariff increase of 7% for residential and 8% for Business.

	2024/25 Proposed tariffs	2025/26	2026/27
Electricity	12.72%	13.24%	13.68%
Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	12.9% 12.9%	12.9% 12.9%	12.9% 12.9%
Refuse Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	7% 8%	9.9% 9.9%	9.9% 9.9%
Sanitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	10.9% 10.9%	10.9% 10.9%	10.9% 10.9%
Rates: Average	6.5%	6.9%	6.9%

	2024/2025 Proposed Tariff during the draft Budget in March 2024	2024/25 Final Proposed tariffs	Reduction in Revenue (‘m)
Electricity	14.0%	12.72%	R250
Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	14.9% 14.9%	12.9% 12.9%	R150
Refuse Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	8.0% 9.0%	7% 8%	R10
Sanitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business 	12.9% 12.9%	10.9% 10.9%	R30
Rates: Average	7.9%	6.5%	R130

ANNEXURE A – 2024/2025

ADDITIONAL RATES LEVIED ON SPECIAL RATING AREAS (1.7.13 REFER)

Special Rating Areas	Resident ial	Business & Commercial	Industrial	Vacant Land	Agricultur e	Unauthorised/ abandoned	Public Service Infrastructur e
a) Precincts bordered by Monty Naicker, Dorothy Nyembe, Anton Lembede and Dr Yusuf Dadoo Streets. (CBD Precinct)	0,001428	0,003239	0	0	0		
b) Precinct bordered by Soldiers Way, Dr AB Xuma Road, Florence Nzama Street and Bram Fischer Road. (North East Business Precinct)	0	0,000608	0,000785	0,001202	0		
c) Precinct bordered by Dorothy Nyembe Street, Margaret Mncadi Avenue, Beach Walk and Anton Lembede Street. (North East Business Precinct)	0	0,000608	0,000785	0,001202	0		
d) Precinct bordered by Soldiers Way, Bram Fischer Road, Sylvester Ntuli, KE Masinga and Archie Gumede (Place) Roads. (North East Business Precinct)	0	0,000608	0,000785	0,001202	0		
e) Precinct bordered by OR Tambo Parade, Dr Pixley KaSeme Street Mall, Rutherford and Gillespie Streets (South Beach Precinct).	0,002649	0,006006	0	0,011876	0		
f) Umhlanga Promenade Precinct bordered by Ocean Way (South), Lot 430 (North), Lagoon Drive (West) and the Indian Ocean (East).	0,00102	0,002313	0	0,004574	0		

Special Rating Areas	Residential	Business & Commercial	Industrial	Vacant Land	Agriculture	Unauthorised/ abandoned	Public Service Infrastructure
g) Precinct bordered by Burlington Road, Burlington Drive, Nagel Road, Windsor Road, Midmar Road and Henley Road.	0,003733	0,008464	0	0,016738	0	0	0
h) Umhlanga Village Precinct bordered by Flamingo Lane, Ocean Way, Lagoon Drive, McCauland Crescent, Weaver Crescent and the Ruth First Highway.	0	0,003187	0	0	0		
i) Giba Gorge bordered by N3 Highway (South), Reservoir Road, Jan Smuts Avenue, Galloway Lane, Mountbatten Place, Alexander Drive, King Cetshwayo Highway (East), Portion 157 of Clifton (North) to Saint Helier Road (West)	0,000454	0	0	0,002033	0,000113		
j) Maytime Community bordered by M13 Highway, Woodside Avenue, Haygarth Road, Abrey Road, Msoni, Quilhall Lane, Alexander Avenue, Mtonbi and Victory Road.	0,002869	0,006504	0	0,012862	0		
k) Area consisting of the length of Florida Road, from Lillian Road to Mitchell's Park, including properties on both sides of Florida Road.	0	0,008882	0	0	0	0	0
l) Westville Perth West Area bounded by Glencairn Close in the West, Stanley Teale Road in the South, Robert Herrick Avenue in the North and the eastern boundary consisting of Linford Place and Drayton Place in Westville	0,003225	0	0	0,003225	0	0	0
m) Glenwood area bounded by Helen Joseph Road, King Dinuzulu Road, Berea Road, Turners Avenue, Che Guevara Road, Moore Road, Clark Road and Bulwer Road.	0	0,004829	0,006231	0	0	0	0
n) Pigeon Valley area bounded by Mazisi Kunene, Lamont, Penzance, Evans, Frere Crescent, ZK Matthews, Alan Paton, Lena Ahrens, Helen Joseph, Cato and Clark Roads	0,001167	0,001167	0	0	0	0	0

ANNEXURE B (1.17 5) REFER)

**LIST OF PROJECTS NOT FUNDED OR PARTIALLY FUNDED THAT WILL
BE FUNDED WHEN FUNDING BECOMES AVAILABLE**

Capital description	Department	Below the line 2024/25	Below the line 2025/26	Below the line 2026/27	Rankings
Landsdowne RS Pumpstation new	TRC- Sanitation	14,769,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
Alternative Sanitation Technology	TRC- Sanitation		15,000,000.00	26,885,000.00	1. Urgent and Important
Kingsburgh Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrade	TRC- Sanitation	3,500,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
WEWE TRUNK MAIN	TRC- Sanitation	4,923,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
UPGRADE OF SCADA SYSTEMS	TRC-Water	5,600,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
Hostel upgrade	TRC-Water	110,000,000.00	27,488,000.00		1. Urgent and Important
Construction of 10 ML Quarry Heights/Nyokeni Reservoir and 300 KL ET	TRC-Water	500,000.00	1,664,400.00	7,472,700.00	1. Urgent and Important
Waterloo Reservoir Upgrade (10 ML)	TRC-Water	500,000.00	1,752,000.00	7,866,000.00	1. Urgent and Important
Tongaat WTW to Tongaat South Res Rising Main upgrade	TRC-Water	5,400,000.00	3,715,540.33	3,336,351.00	1. Urgent and Important
Molweni Res 1	TRC-Water	1,600,000.00	1,142,702.00	1,011,169.81	1. Urgent and Important
Salem Res Upgrade	TRC-Water	2,500,000.00	1,642,500.00	1,474,875.00	1. Urgent and Important
Hambanathi Rising Main - Upgrade Rising Main from DN250AC/ST to DN300 Steel	TRC-Water	2,800,000.00	490,560.00	-	1. Urgent and Important
WWTW PPP Infrastructure Payments (Pipelines and Pumpstations)	TRC- Sanitation	-	-	60,211,950.00	2.Important but not urgent
RIDGE END RESERVOIR WPS	TRC-Water	3,000,000.00			2.Important but not urgent

Capital description	Department	Below the line 2024/25	Below the line 2025/26	Below the line 2026/27	Rankings
ST THOMAS RESERVOIR WPS FUNC UPGRADE	TRC-Water	3,000,000.00			2.Important but not urgent
Adams 4 Res Inlet, Storage capacity upgrade and procurement of pumps	TRC-Water	3,188,800.00	2,102,836.70	1,888,232.00	2.Important but not urgent
Firwood Reservoir, Construction of a New Elevated Tank to Supply HL Zone and Associated Works	TRC-Water	500,000.00	109,500.00	122,906.00	2.Important but not urgent
Thandokuhle Reservoir Construction	TRC-Water	500,000.00	1,752,000.00	393,300.00	3. Urgent but not Important
ROAD REHABILITATION - VARIOUS R	HSI- Engineering	26,151,200.00	66,902,200.00	70,247,400.02	1. Urgent and Important
CSA2412: WATERFALL DEPOT	HSI- Engineering			8,367,200.00	1. Urgent and Important
CSA2412: WATERFALL DEPOT	HSI- Engineering			2,656,600.00	
Pedestrian Safety CBD Project – Monty Naicker Road and Dr AB Xuma Street	Ethekwini Transport Authority	3,000,000.00	22,000,000.00		1. Urgent and Important
Pedestrian Safety CBD Project – Dr Pixley Kaseme and Anton Lembede Street	Ethekwini Transport Authority		3,000,000.00		1. Urgent and Important
Traffic and Safety Improvements - Intersection: Griffiths Mxenge Highway Upgrade	Ethekwini Transport Authority		5,390,000.00		1. Urgent and Important
Newlands Transformer T1B Repla	Electricity	10,000,000.00	-	-	Urgent and Important
Bayhead 132kV substation	Electricity	-		36,000,000.00	Urgent and Important
Jameson Park 132/11 KV substat	Electricity	24,300,000.00	3,700,000.00	-	Urgent and Important
KE Masinga S/STN Equipment	Electricity	1,000,000.00	-	-	Urgent and Important
Springfield Substation 132 ki	Electricity	30,750,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	Urgent and Important
Avoca 132/11 kV Substation	Electricity	50,000.00	-	-	Urgent and Important
Clermont 132/11 kV Substation	Electricity	5,000.00	-	-	Urgent and Important

Capital description	Department	Below the line 2024/25	Below the line 2025/26	Below the line 2026/27	Rankings
PRASA 11 kV Supplies	Electricity	14,000,000.00	-	-	Urgent and Important
132kV emergency bypass Cables	Electricity	-	8,000,000.00	9,000,000.00	Urgent and Important
HV Substation Equipment replacement	Electricity	30,000,000.00	12,525,700.00	9,874,300.00	Urgent and Important
Smart Service - Rates Clearance Application	Electricity	2,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,050,000.00	Urgent and Important
HV LAN refurbishment	Electricity		200,000.00	210,000.00	Urgent and Important
Differential Protection Retrofitment Project	Electricity	500,000.00	2,000,000.00	2,100,000.00	Urgent and Important
SDH System Upgrade for Network Optimisation	Electricity	3,700,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00	Urgent and Important
Substation Integrated Security	Electricity	3,280,400.00	14,000,000.00	2,100,000.00	Urgent and Important
Giba Gorge Developer Supply	Electricity	12,000,000.00	0.00	12,000,000.00	Urgent and important
Hambanathi Hub	Agro-Ecology	3,143,000.00	2,812,800.00	3,117,600.00	1. Urgent and Important
Upgrade of the audio-visual system at Moses Mabhida stadium	Moses Mabhida Stadium	17,000,000.00	-	-	1. Urgent and Important
Kings Park Pool	Parks and Recreation	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00		1. Urgent and Important
Kings Park Athletics Stadia	Parks and Recreation	10,000,000.00	24,000,000.00		1. Urgent and Important
Balkumar Pool	Parks and Recreation	3,000,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
Windsor Golf Course	Parks and Recreation	4,000,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
EML	Parks and Recreation	4,500,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
Cato Crest Library	Parks and Recreation	2,000,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
Botanic Gardens	Parks and Recreation	650,000.00		10,000,000.00	1. Urgent and Important
Cctv Expansion	Disaster Management	14,698,000.00	17,780,000.00	12,419,000.00	Urgent and important

Capital description	Department	Below the line 2024/25	Below the line 2025/26	Below the line 2026/27	Rankings
Fibre Optic	Disaster Management	6,809,000.00	9,100,000.00	13,005,000.00	Urgent and important
Phoenix Fire Station - Phase 1 : Structural repairs to roof trusses	Emergency Services	1,000,000.00	1,200,000.00	18,503,750.00	Urgent and important
Chatsworth fire station - Phase 1 : Adds & Alts/repairs to Boundary Wall(Due to Flood damage)	Emergency Services	500,000.00	1,000,000.00	18,503,750.00	Urgent and important
Hammersdale Fire - New fire station	Emergency Services	1,000,000.00	700,000.00	-	Urgent and important
Jacobs Fire Station (Alterations)	Emergency Services	1,000,000.00	800,000.00	20,000,000.00	Urgent and important
Umlazi Fire Station- Alterations	Emergency Services	500,000.00	700,000.00	800,000.00	Urgent and important
FIRE-TRAINING FACILITY-Illovu - Adds & Alts	Emergency Services	981,400.00	1,500,000.00	36,000,000.00	Urgent and important
Verulam Police Station - Renovations as per Conditional Assessment (CSA3145)	Metro Police	1,334,694.34	5,000,000.00	6,505,306.00	Urgent and important
Airconditioning - Replacement of condemned units.	CHR- Human Resources	900,000.0			1. Urgent and Important
Mobeni Roof Replacement	FIN-City Fleet	2,989,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
Brickworks Phase 2	EDP - Catalytic Projects			50,000,000.00	1. Urgent and Important
Ntshongweni Infrastructure Upgrades for Ph1	EDP - Catalytic Projects	136,000,000.00	-	-	1. Urgent and Important
Cornubia Boulevard - Phase 3 (WP4C)	EDP - Catalytic Projects	20,000,000.00	-	-	1. Urgent and Important
Cornubia Boulevard - Phase 2 (WP6B)	EDP - Catalytic Projects	29,400,000.00	-	-	1. Urgent and Important
Cornubia Boulevard - Phase 1 (WP6A)	EDP - Catalytic Projects	38,850,000.00	-	-	1. Urgent and Important
Umbumbulu Town Centre Development	EDP - Economic Development Unit	3,000,000.00	6,000,000.00		1. Urgent and Important
Pinetown Railway Redevelopment	EDP - Economic	9,840,000.00			1. Urgent and Important

Capital description	Department	Below the line 2024/25	Below the line 2025/26	Below the line 2026/27	Rankings
	Development Unit				
Zazi Street Land Acquisition ERF1078, ERF83, ERF84	EDP - Economic Development Unit	4,020,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
Zazi Street Construction of Pedestrian linkages Posselts	EDP - Economic Development Unit	8,600,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
Electrification supply in kwaDabeka Gcakini	EDP - Economic Development Unit	3,794,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
KwaMashu Auto Hub	EDP - Economic Development Unit	10,000,000.00			1. Urgent and Important
DATA CENTRE MAINFRAME SERVER AN	Information Management	25,000,000.00	-	-	Urgent and important
Microwave Solution	Information Management	6,351,000.00	9,825,000.00	9,824,000.00	Urgent and important
Woza Basket	EDP - Economic Development Unit	-	8,000,000.00	26,356,000.00	1. Urgent and Important
Under-Utilized Buildings programme and Corridors of Excellence	EDP - Economic Development Unit	267,067,267.00	298,174,538.00	298,174,538.00	1. Urgent and Important
Rehabilitation of Inkosi Alber	HSI-Engineering	50,000,000.00	-	-	1. Urgent and Important
Clark Road Sea Outfall and CUL	HSI-Engineering	20,000,000.00	-	-	1. Urgent and Important
		1,040,944,761.34	592,770,277.03	787,976,927.83	

ANNEXURE C (1.31- 1.31.2(k) (i) (REFER)

DESTINATION PROMOTION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMMES				
NO.	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	EVENT DESCRIPTION
1.	Hollywoodbets Durban July	Hollywoodbets Durban July	Hollywoodbets Durban July	Hollywoodbets Durban July in an annual race horsing event that takes place on first weekend of July at the Greyville Racecourse. It offers a variety of activities taking place such as fashion, music and entertainment and also a showcase of Durban lifestyle. This is Africa's greatest horse racing event it draws a number of visitors to the city, which in turn generates substantial revenue for the City.
2.	Fact Durban Rocks (July and December)	Fact Durban Rocks (July and December)	Fact Durban Rocks (July and December)	The Fact Durban Rocks is an event that takes places bi-annually at the Moses Mabhida Stadium since July 2011. Promote and grow Durban artists and talent, increase domestic tourism to the city through its multiple performance stages. This FDR as become a household brand name all over the country & regionally.
3.	East Coast Radio House and Garden Show	East Coast Radio House and Garden Show	East Coast Radio House and Garden Show	The show consists of a Home-Grown Design Fair, Outdoor, Garden and Lifestyle area, Foodie Fair and curated design features. The Durban Kitchen promotes township products taking Township Kasi Lifestyle and showcasing music, food, furniture SMME's during the show across all demographic
4.	South African Music Conference (SAMC) and Mother of all Parties (MOAP)	South African Music Conference (SAMC) and Mother of all Parties (MOAP)	South African Music Conference (SAMC) and Mother of all Parties (MOAP)	Three-day local creative industry empowerment workshop by music industry legends & regulatory bodies in the music industry. IT helps local talent to promote music that highlights Durban lifestyle & tourism products. The conference discusses the commercialization of local music. Exhibition of Durban emerging talent utilizing township lounges.
5.	Any Given Sunday (July and December)	Any Given Sunday (July and December)	Any Given Sunday (July and December)	A four-edition national road show of Durban destination brand building. This is concluded by a grand finale to Durban to a 2-day Durban explore extravaganza. It is packaged with various accommodation establishments, tour guides, tour operators, shuttle services.
6.	Durban July Stakeholder and Media Hosting	Durban July Stakeholder and Media Hosting	Durban July Stakeholder and Media Hosting	This is a robust destination promotion of tourism including rural and townships in during the Durban July weekend hosting key Media and stakeholder. It has great economic impact to business in townships and also destination exposure through the hosting of local and international stakeholders in various township tourism products and experiences. This will towards the venue hosting and experience package.
7.	Durban July Week Tourism Precinct Pop-Up Traveller Extravaganza	Durban July Week Tourism Precinct Pop-Up Traveller Extravaganza	Durban July Week Tourism Precinct Pop-Up Traveller Extravaganza	Narrative should cover various prescient in Florida Road, Chartwell Drive, Davenport, Coastal Experience including Wilson's wharf to revitalize tourism
8.	Pre-Easter Gospel Music Festival	Pre-Easter Gospel Music Festival	Pre-Easter Gospel Music Festival	It is a festival during the Easter season, it takes place pre-Easter weekend and attracts visitors to the destination. The event brings visitors from outside Durban and entices religious tourism visitors
9.	Durban July Township & Rural Tourism Promotion in various regions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 503 Music Festival and Youth Festival Ekasi July Experience 	Durban July Township & Rural Tourism Promotion in various regions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 503 Music Festival and Youth Festival Ekasi July Experience 	Durban July Township & Rural Tourism Promotion in various regions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 503 Music Festival and Youth Festival Ekasi July Experience 	This destination programme will visitor dispersal in the townships during the Durban July. It will be robustly promotion township tourism whereby the Durban July experience will be staged in various township tourism products. Spread to north, south, west and central to accommodate SMMEs tourism owed products. This experience will include the elements of betting stations, fashion, entertainment that will include the township local talent. The products at which this will be done are those that are fully compliant with business operations requirements. This will absorb the numbers that cannot be accommodated at Greyville Racecourse due to the Covid limitations of 50%.

DESTINATION PROMOTION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMMES				
NO.	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	EVENT DESCRIPTION
10.	SoDurba Whale Festival	SoDurba Whale Festival	SoDurba Whale Festival	With the unique Durban whale watching experience, visitors come to Bluff area to view that experience. This happens over a number of day and the CTO has amplified the visitor experience through a festival that enhances the positioning of Durban through Bluff as one of the gems.
11.	Music is King	Music is King	Music is King	The event is a weekender/3 night event, which will have different themes for each show, namely being; Music is King, We don't play the same genre and Africa is not a Jungle, which will have Black Coffee as a headlining artist and features many local artists. This concept will not only bring national, international and domestic markets to Durban but will drive potentially high occupancy rates for central region accommodation establishments
12.	Amashova Cycle Race	Amashova Cycle Race	Amashova Cycle Race	This is an annual cycle race from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. It attracts national and international visitors into the City and it gives the City massive media exposure.
13.	Joyous Celebration	Joyous Celebration	Joyous Celebration	The concept behind the Kings and Queens of Gospel is having a gospel music concert that combines royalty, elegance and prestige gospel entertainment and offers the "Kings" and "Queens" of the industry. It attracts a new different market and offers a new visitor experience during the festive season.
14.	Endless Summer	Endless Summer	Endless Summer	Endless Summer Experience is an event that boasts that destination and the various ongoing campaigns from Durban Tourism and endless summer in Durban.
15.	Durban Underground	Durban Underground	Durban Underground	An annual Christmas Day program that celebrates Durban artists and offers visitors in Durban an entertainment and fun experience during Christmas day.
16.	Durban Jazz Festival	Durban Jazz Festival	Durban Jazz Festival	Biggest program in South Africa during the festive season taking place on 26 December. Strategic hosting of stakeholders and gives Durban visitors
17.	Woz' eDurban Picnic	Woz' eDurban Picnic	Woz' eDurban Picnic	Attracts high LSM from Gauteng and other provinces to come to Durban during the Festive Season. It renders opportunity to local entertainment artists targeting hotel visitors to experience various options.
18.	Lovers and Friends	Lovers and Friends	Lovers and Friends	The event is tailor made to celebrate love, friendship and social cohesion. Previously this event has attracted 3617 patrons and steadily increased as the years passed. 2020 the event even had an international act which unfortunately could not hold as there were COVID – 19 restrictions.
19.	Family Fun Day Picnic	Family Fun Day Picnic	Family Fun Day Picnic	Traditionally held at the Munies Hockey Club in Durban, the Family Fun Day Picnic is a family-oriented event hence people travel in groups and offers a family desired holiday experience to Durban. It has different games for children, sporting activities for adults and a stage which has performances to keep the "vibe" of the fun day. This is suitable for family entertainment and helps attracts
20.	5 th Annual Xmas Kasi Cultural Experience	5 th Annual Xmas Kasi Cultural Experience	5 th Annual Xmas Kasi Cultural Experience	The Annua Kasi Cultural Experience s an outdoor experience that is aimed at promoting the Hammarisdale in the outer west region whilst promoting a tourism product.
21.	Aquelle Tour Durban	Aquelle Tour Durban	Aquelle Tour Durban	A two-day mass participation cycling event incorporating road cycling races as well as other allied events and activities. The event has been staged for the past number of years with the primary aim as a fundraising mechanism. The event attracts cyclists from all over the country. The Tour Durban is also a primary tourism driver for the city and environs.
22.	Ironman 70.3 Triathlon:	Ironman 70.3 Triathlon:	Ironman 70.3 Triathlon:	It is an international triathlon that profiles the City and iconic attraction beachfront prescient of Durban. If

DESTINATION PROMOTION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMMES				
NO.	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	EVENT DESCRIPTION
				gives the City international exposure through visits and internal media
23.	Durban Summer Beach Festival	Durban Summer Beach Festival	Durban Summer Beach Festival	This event takes place on the beachfront during peak season, it offers visitors an opportunity to participate in various beach activities and enjoy different entertainment over a busy period.
24.	Inanda Dam Picnic	Inanda Dam Picnic	Inanda Dam Picnic	A lifestyle event taking place at the Inanda Dam and promoting township and rural tourism. Taking place during the festive season and encouraging visitor dispersal. Promoting Inanda area and the attractions in Inanda as well as Msinsi dam. The event is packaged to link with tourist attractions like the Inanda Heritage route.
25.	Endless Fun Season Extravaganza	Endless Fun Season Extravaganza	Endless Fun Season Extravaganza	This is an annual digital and on-the-ground Visit Durban destination drive to aggressively promote the destination and drive visitors to the destination using key influential strategic stakeholders in various sectors. These sectors can range from big business, entertainment, and the creative industry with huge national and international following academia, medical, community, professional conference organisers and more who are within the profile visitors as end users to the destination. The objective is to rapidly change the narrative that had been aggressed by media that Durban is a ghost town, into a positive one and erode the negative perceptions that dilute visitor appetite for the destination. The tools used will be rapid ongoing digital campaigns during off-peak-themed activations in promoting key touch points. The promotion will be quarterly.
26.	Durban Travel and Heritage Extravaganza (September)	Durban Travel and Heritage Extravaganza (September)	Durban Travel and Heritage Extravaganza (September)	Various events taking place over a week during September as the Tourism and Heritage month promoting the destination and going to different touch points of the City. Different pockets of events in key tourism precincts driving tourism awareness and attracting people to the destination
27.	Dubane Spring Break	Dubane Spring Break	Dubane Spring Break	This event is a spectacular family fun oriented full day event that happens inside the uShaka Marine World Water park. It extensively promotes UShaka Marine World and supports is marketing and awareness to bring more foot traffic into the Village Walk beyond the event date. It also helps to promote the beach front precinct and promotes the repurposed leisure experience of the entity and its outlets.
28.	Umhlanga 10 KM Run	Umhlanga 10 KM Run	Umhlanga 10 KM Run	To promote the Umhlanga Rocks precinct and showcase the areas as a tourist and business hub. Incorporating the 10km race by running through the main areas and unique landmarks at Umhlanga Rocks. With the participation of different international teams, the event attracts domestic and international visitors to the destination. The event promotes sports tourism with visitor dispersal to other precincts (tourism and sporting) within the destination
29.	Community Tourism Organisation Tourism Promotion including Township and Rural Tourism Promotions	Community Tourism Organisation Tourism Promotion including Township and Rural Tourism Promotions	Community Tourism Organisation Tourism Promotion including Township and Rural Tourism Promotions	These are destination promotion activations that are staged in various parts of the City to promote rural and township tourism experience. They are conceptualized by Durban Tourism in collaboration with the 9 regional Community Tourism Organizations (CTOs) to be staged in various townships products. This yields the benefit of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor dispersal to township and rural tourism products. • Multiple Artists at all levels benefits Small Businesses in tourism activation value chain benefit.
30.	Day Lounge Society	Day Lounge Society	Day Lounge Society	The event is a daytime outdoor event which has a predominantly cosmopolitan market with a very high-end fashion influence and feel which speaks to all current trends showcasing the best that Durban has to

DESTINATION PROMOTION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMMES				
NO.	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	EVENT DESCRIPTION
				offer with international standards of production and entertainment.
31.	Wayback Nalstagia Festival	Wayback Nalstagia Festival	Wayback Nalstagia Festival	The event is a unique and engaging celebration of local and international old school music. The festival aims to provide a nostalgic experience for attendees while celebrating the timeless classics that have shaped the music industry.
32.	International Legends jams In Mzansi	International Legends jams In Mzansi	International Legends jams In Mzansi	The event is a unique and engaging celebration of local and international. The festival aims to provide a nostalgic experience for attendees while celebrating the timeless classics that have shaped the music industry. The event is a music festival with a local footprint.
33.	Anywhere in the City (July and December)	Anywhere in the City (July and December)	Anywhere in the City (July and December)	A home brewed house music platform, shining the spotlight of local talent and exporting globally. Primary and secondary LSM, mostly Durbanites, whole of SA
34.	Thabiso Mchunu Boxing	Thabiso Mchunu Boxing	Thabiso Mchunu Boxing	International boxing tournament that is proposed to be hosted at Durban ICC, Sport event
35.	9 th Annual INK- KASI Experience	9 th Annual INK- KASI Experience	9 th Annual INK- KASI Experience	INK-KASI Experience is an annual music event that is on eThekweni social calendar, Music event, Local and other provinces
36.	Nickelodeon Slime Fest International footprint	Nickelodeon Slime Fest International footprint	Nickelodeon Slime Fest International footprint	First launched in Australia, Slime Fest is a global Nickelodeon property and provides the ultimate music concert, 100% for kids, LSM 5-10,
37.	Durban Beach Paradise	Durban Beach Paradise	Durban Beach Paradise	Aims to bring all higher LSM holiday makers and locals together during the weekend of the Durban July and December holidays. This event will assist in correcting the narrative for Durban beaches after the recent E.Coli challenges. It also aims at getting the different demographic to the Durban Beachfront and also profiling UShaka Marine and the restaurants along the golden mile who will benefits in the long run as the confidence to frequent our beaches will be enhanced.
38.	Zulu Carnival	Zulu Carnival	Zulu Carnival	Carnival style Event celebrating Zulu culture and showcasing authentic Zulu experience and promoting social cohesion.
39.	Christmas with Ladysmith Black Mambazo	Christmas with Ladysmith Black Mambazo	Christmas with Ladysmith Black Mambazo	The Amambazo are a 4 time award-winning Grammy award winning group that also the world in representing the destination. In line with their genre and lyrics, they will be doing Christmas events, carols in the mood of festivities. The event aims to share the spirit of festivities which is one of the festive objectives the City seeks to achieve. It will also be a draw card to international as the group has an international footprint, in the USA, Europe and UAE. It is targeting 8000 attendees.
40.	SASO's House	SASO's House	SASO's House	The event is an exclusive, high-end, outdoor event that aims to capture the feel and essence of Durban as Africa's playground, during the festive season and selected public holidays. The event will take place at Kings Park Stadium, in the heart of the City to allow Saso's house to welcome more guests to join the festivities. The event is a lifestyle event with an international footprint. The event is targeting 2 000 attendees and LSM 8 - 10.
41.	Umgababa New Year's Picnic	Umgababa New Year's Picnic	Umgababa New Year's Picnic	Ushering the New Year on the shores of Umgababa Beach, the event is expected to draw people from around KZN to enjoy this lifestyle event of the first day of the year and profile the South Coast.
42.	MTV Music Awards and African Regional Roadshows	MTV Music Awards and African Regional Roadshows	MTV Music Awards and African Regional Roadshows	This is mega event owned by Paramount Group formally known as Viacom, the owners of MTV & BET TV channel. It has a huge international and African footprint and the last time Durban hosted it in 2015 it was hosted by American comedian and actor Anthony Anderson and draw card artist Ne-Yo. The

DESTINATION PROMOTION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMMES				
NO.	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	EVENT DESCRIPTION
				event will have a pre-campaign of “Road to Durban MAMA” will give a huge exposure and attract like It recognizes African talent. The partnership will boost visitor numbers to the City, give huge media exposure, and also boost local tourism lounges in townships and rural areas. The local event promoters and creative industry will also benefit from build-up activations will be done locally towards the awards as well as after parties.
43.	Kabza De Small One-Man Concert	Kabza De Small One-Man Concert	Kabza De Small One-Man Concert	Live one-man concert in honour and celebration of the very best talent in the music industry. Event is a music event with a National footprint.
44.	Durban Africa Bike Weekend Festival	Durban Africa Bike Weekend Festival	Durban Africa Bike Weekend Festival	This is a Bikers. Signature biking festival for the City of Durban that will firmly entrench Durban as the home of biking in South Africa. This event will not only attract the biking & spectator fraternity from around South Africa. The Durban Africa Bike Week consists of an enclosed precinct that will be a pedestrianised zone including a festival stage, festival beer garden, bike concourse and biking retail.
45.	eThekweni Surf Pro	eThekweni Surf Pro	eThekweni Surf Pro	The World Surf League established in 1976, is the global home of surfing organisation with regional offices in North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Africa, Global event
46.	Durban International Marathon	Durban International Marathon	Durban International Marathon	The event is a world athletics road race label event, the only label event in KZN, and one of only two label marathons in South Africa. The race comprises of a 10km and the icon premier 42.2km marathon that starts at Prospection and ends at People's Park. The event is a marathon with the National footprint.
47.	Gas Motor Show	Gas Motor Show	Gas Motor Show	Gas Motorshow is a celebration of car culture and South African lifestyle, Motorsport event, LSM 7-10 aged between 11 to 65, 20 000 patrons and 67% are from outside of Durban. It attracts a mixed demographics and car lovers into the City- high spender market.
48.	eThekweni Jazz Jam	eThekweni Jazz Jam	eThekweni Jazz Jam	Exclusive live jazz music experience designed to enhance and diversity the renowned Durban jazz program and music event,
49.	Mojos July Weekend	Mojos July Weekend	Mojos July Weekend	A Durban July event that promote township tourism experience in the west and boasts fashion, music and people elements of the glamorous, Music event, Local elite LSM.
50.	White Party Lifestyle Excursion	White Party Lifestyle Excursion	White Party Lifestyle Excursion	A 3-weekend days road show that brings about 200 to 300 high-end LSM to Durban. The combination of influencers, celebrities, travel media and travel social media bloggers as well as socialites that have a huge social media following and influence. It boosts various tourism attractions of Durban as they cover and tell their story of Durban excursion. It is the first and largest lounge open-air festival for music fans around the globe. it has build-up activations that are staged in about 4 tourism attractions for high LSM, music lovers and fans from all walks of the world connected, but most importantly connecting Africa, with a specially curated artist program. It has a unique niche to attract audience.
51.	Artizen Durban July	Artizen Durban July	Artizen Durban July	A celebration of life, arts and music will be the order of the day. The theme will promote life without drugs and crimes. The event is a music event with a local footprint.
52.	7 th Annual DJ Bongz Social Link Music Festival	7 th Annual DJ Bongz Social Link Music Festival	7 th Annual DJ Bongz Social Link Music Festival	Music Festival in the outer west area of Durban going for its 7th year since its inception in 2015. The event will attract 4000 people from around Durban. Logo on all marketing collateral, branding rights, hospitality

DESTINATION PROMOTION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMMES				
NO.	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	EVENT DESCRIPTION
53.	Comrades Marathon	Comrades Marathon	Comrades Marathon	The Comrade's Marathon is an ultramarathon of approximately 89 kilometres which is run annually in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa between the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. It is the world's largest and oldest ultramarathon race.
54.	KZN Music Imbizo	KZN Music Imbizo	KZN Music Imbizo	The Music Imbizo is an international music business conference, exhibition and film festival. The conference collects various music industry stakeholders under one roof to map the way forward for the music industry in the continent – Africa.
55.	Dlala Tukzin	Dlala Tukzin	Dlala Tukzin	Dlala Thukzin is an iconic dance festival that takes place over three days. The event offers a social experience as well as boasts a line-up of local and national artists with an international footprint.
56.	KZN Memorium	KZN Memorium	KZN Memorium	The event is a one-day event in two different venues. A cleansing prayer and march from Gladys Manzi Road and ends at Gordon Park, the march is to cleanse KZN and Durban from the dark cloud and death in the music industry. The Memorium concert at People's Park is a celebratory music affair in honour of our fallen musician, music concert format. The event is a march and a concert with a local footprint.
57.	Africa Unit Reggae Music Festival	Africa Unit Reggae Music Festival	Africa Unit Reggae Music Festival	The event is centered around reggae music and aimed at promoting reggae music, artists, and culture and mostly spreading the message of love and black people's pride and celebrating black heroes who fought for freedom and the preservation of the black culture. The event is a music event with a local footprint. The event is targeting 8000 attendees and a high LSM.
58.	African Throne	African Throne	African Throne	Music Society is one of the freshest trending events in Durban that is all about giving out music in the township while creating opportunities for the local community from local artists, entrepreneurs, tourism products, etc. Event is a music event with a local footprint.
	2024/2025 TOTAL R41 000 000.00	2025/2026 TOTAL R43 050 000	2026/2027 TOTAL R45 202 5000.00	
The base amount for financial years 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 is the approved budget of R41 Million with an escalation of 5% in the respective years.				

(Prior to Council debating the final draft 2024/2025-2026/2026 Budget, the Speaker afforded His Worship the Mayor, Councillor T Kaunda, opportunity to present his Budget Speech. In this regard, His Worship ascended a podium accordingly.)

Prior to presenting his speech, His Worship requested that copies of the Governance Performance Index-South Africa 2021 and the Quarterly Labour Force Survey be circulated to members, and it being noted that this information confirmed what was raised during the State of the City Address. As part of the City's accomplishments, he reported that Field Crescent in Kloof was one of the roads in Ward 10 was due for completion before its anticipated project completion due date.

Indication was thereafter given that the 2024/2025-2025/2026 budget was tabled for the approval by Council following a series of engagements with the relevant key stakeholders including communities, business sector, the disability sector as well as Ratepayers Associations amongst others. Words of appreciation were extended to eThekweni residents who participated fully in the IDP/Budget Roadshows and for their valuable inputs which have since been carefully considered. The Municipality was encouraged by the constructive engagements and during this time communities

did not only complain but also provided practical solutions to the challenges faced by the City.

It was mentioned that the 2024/2025 Budget was set at R67.2 billion and this was made up of the Operating Budget of R59.5 billion and the Capital Budget of R7.68 billion.

REVISED TARIFF INCREASES

His Worship reported that the revised tariff increases were as follows:

- *Electricity tariff has been reduced from 14% to 12.72% and this was equivalent to the Eskom tariff increase.*
- *The property rates tariff was reduced from 7.9% to 6.5%.*
- *The water tariff was reduced 14.9% to 12.9%. This increase will be directed to the maintenance, upgrade, security and building of new water related infrastructure with the Municipality.*
- *The sanitation tariff increase was reduced from 12.9% to 10.9%.*
- *The refuse tariff increase was reduced from 8% to 7% for domestic and reduced from 9% to 8% for businesses.*

Council was further informed of the introduction of 10% rebate on rates for vacant land on application and approval which will be based on compliance with certain conditions including development of vacant land within two years. An increase in total household income that qualifies for indigent rebate has been increased from R4220 to R7000 per month and this will make a significant change more to those communities that are struggling to meet their monthly obligations. A further increase on the annual senior citizen's rebate from R5290 to R5770 has been recorded including an increase on the property value threshold from R250 000 to R350 000 for water and sanitation and refuse removal free basic services.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AT WARD LEVEL

Following concerns raised during the Budget hearings, His Worship advised that the allocation of the blocksum has been unbundled to cater for projects identified through Ward priorities and public consultation. In this regard, line departments have been directed to implement matters raised during previous community engagements and further report on the progress made through relevant Support Committees.

BILLING ISSUES

It was noted that residents have been consistent complaining about unread meters and in this regard, the meter reading contract was now in place and the exercise of reading meters has resumed. The Municipality was also in the process of upgrading the old billing system in line with the Council resolution and the process of migrating meter reading function from line departments (Electricity and Water) to the Revenue Department was underway. It was further reported that the Municipality was in the process of replacing old meters. Residents were encouraged to download the eThekweni Municipality Mobile App which allows easy access to the municipal bill, submission of meter readings and to lodge complaints.

ROADS AND STORMWATER

His Worship advised that the Roads and Stormwater department has been allocated a capital budget R660 million and over the MTERF, an amount of R1.69 billion will be spent on road rehabilitation reconstruction and new access roads.

ELECTRICITY

To implement all the electricity interventions as outlined in the State of the City Address, His Worship reported that a budget of R21,58 billion comprising of an operating budget of R20.9 billion and a capital budget of R672 million. The capital budget will then be spent on the ongoing extension and the reinforcing of the existing networks and the commissioning of new 17 sub-stations to ensure that the City was energy secured.

Reference was made to the recent meeting with Minister of Electricity who has assured the City that the Eskom transformers servicing some of the eThekweni residents will be restored. Appreciation was also expressed to the KwaZulu-Natal government for approving an amount of R30 million for this exercise.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

To upgrade the water infrastructure and to increase access to water services, it was reported that the Municipality has allocated a budget of R11,65 billion comprising of an operating budget of R10.18 billion and a capital budget of R1,47 billion. In addition, there is an allocation of R509 million for repairs and maintenance to rehabilitate the water infrastructure thus ensuring stable water supply and reduce water losses.

For the maintenance of the wastewater treatment plants, pump stations and sewer lines, a budget of R3.96 billion has been allocated. This budget comprises of an operating budget of R3.19 billion and capital budget of R772 million.

CLEANSING AND SOLID WASTE

In a bid to keep the City clean, a budget of R2.27 billion has been allocated and this includes the provision of R166 million for repairs and maintenance. A capital budget of R368 million will be spent on procuring new fleet and the implementation on various landfill sites development projects.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

His Worship reported that a budget of R1.76 billion has been allocated comprising of operating budget of R948 million and capital budget of R815 million for the provision of quality human settlements services. The capital budget will be spent in building 1638 new houses as part of eradicating informal settlements in the City.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Indication was given that the Municipality remained committed to the provision of community services and this included maintenance and the upgrade of the sporting facilities, parks, community halls, fire stations amongst others. In this regard, an operational budget of R6.7 billion has been allocated and R153 million has been allocated for repairs and maintenance of infrastructure including swimming pools. The creative industry will also benefit through the hosting of major cultural events that will position Durban as a tourism destination.

ETHEKWINI TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

It was mentioned that eThekweni Transport Authority plays a crucial role on the provision of public transport facilities in the City. With an operating operational budget of R1,56 billion and an operational budget of R696 million, indication was given that part of this budget will be allocated towards the implementation of the Integrated Rapid Public Transport Network, Go! Durban C3 Corridor which was expected to Go Live in July 2024.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

His Worship advised that it was crucial for the Municipality to create a conducive environment for businesses to operate by investing on the infrastructure for economic growth and job creation. In that regard an allocation R728 million has been set aside to develop bulk infrastructure for catalytic projects and funding from other spheres of government will be sourced for this mission.

NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Mention was made that the Nutrition Programme played an important role to ensure provision of food to poor households. Given the positive impact it has yielded it has been suggested that this programme be extended to from 87 to 94 sites. The operating budget for this programme was R137 million.

In conclusion, His Worship stated that as the country was marking 30 years of freedom and 24 years of the democratic local government, the Municipality remained steadfast to bring meaningful change to the lives of the people within eThekweni since local government was best placed in responding to the needs of the people.

Words of gratitude were expressed to all that have been involved in finalising this budget and thereafter the 2024/2025 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework for eThekweni Municipality was tabled for final approval by Council. The Speaker invited political parties to join in the debate for the budget and advised that additional speaking time has been allocated to parties and all party whips have been informed of the allocated time per party.

AMENDMENT 1

In terms of Rule of Order By-Law 20 (4), Councillor ZM Mncwango and seconded by Councillor A Beesley moved that the recommendations of the Executive Committee amended as follows:

“That the following tariffs be increased by 5.3 % in line with Consumer Price Index percentage of 5.3%:”

- Refuse Removal: Domestic and Business,*
- Sanitation: Domestic and Business*
- Rates*
- Water and;*
- Electricity Tariffs*

Motivating on the proposed amendment, the Action SA mentioned that in view of the current inflation being 5.3%, it would be prudent for the Council to also align the proposed increase on the tariffs to the said percentage. Also, based on the community engagements, it was believed that a zero increase will be accepted by the ratepayers.

As some Councillors were not in support of the proposed amendment, the matter was put to a vote. With 171 Councillors present, 57 Councillors (DA-49, ActionSA-02, ACDP-02, DLC-01, MF-01, UIM-01 and VF PLUS-01) voted in favour of the amendment, 95 Councillors (ANC-88, AIC-02, APF-01, ATM-01, KZNI-01, NFP-01 and PRM-01) voted against the amendment and 19 Councillors (EFF-17 and ABC-02) abstained.

Thereafter the motion to amend was, by the majority vote **NOT CARRIED.**

AMENDMENT 2

In terms of Rule of Order By-Law 20 (4), Councillor TM Mthethwa and seconded by Councillor M Billy moved that the recommendations of the Executive Committee amended as follows:

“That there be zero (0) tariff increases until the Municipality is able to deliver stable basic services in line with what customers are expected to pay.”

Motivating for the amendment, the DA mentioned that the delivery of basic services in eThekweni has collapsed and in that regard, it cannot be expected for Councillors to engage in discussions that had a possibility of increasing tariffs when services were not adequately rendered.

As some Councillors were not in support of the proposed amendment, the matter was put to a vote. With 170 Councillors present, 57 Councillors (DA-50, ActionSA-02, ACDP-01, KZNI-01, MF-01, UIM-01 and VF PLUS-01) voted in favour of the amendment, 93 Councillors (ANC- 87, AIC, 02, APF-01, ATM-01, JEP-01 and NFP-01) voted against the amendment and 20 Councillors (EFF-17, ABC-01, DLC-01 and PRM-01) abstained.

Thereafter the motion to amend was, by the majority vote **NOT CARRIED.**

[At this stage of the proceedings (13:22-13h41), the EFF requested for a caucus break, and this was duly granted.]

Subsequently, the Speaker advised on the speaking times allocated to each political party and invited Councillors to join in the debate.

The ANC welcomed the budget and indicated that it reflected a sign of commitment to ensure a better life for all. It was mentioned that it was pleasing to see more of the budget going towards addressing infrastructure challenges, particularly water and electricity. Mention being made that this budget will assist to complete the Northern and Southern Aqueduct projects which will see areas of Folweni, Chatsworth, Umlazi, Shallcross, Klaarwater benefiting from these projects and ensure adequate provision of water. Also, in working with Umngeni and uThukela Water, more dams will be commissioned to ensure that the areas of Umkomaas will receive sufficient water. On electricity, it was reported that more Sub-stations will be commissioned. Officials were also thanked for accelerating the finalisation of the Go! Durban project which was expected to Go Live in July 2024.

Continuing with input, the ANC congratulated the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on their recent nomination in the World Travel Awards. Also, it being noted that the Municipality has managed to get close to R217 billion through investors and this confirmed investor confidence in the

Municipality. Reference was made to projects that have been implemented such as Isibaya Coastal Crescent, Avoca Node BrickWorks, Cato Ridge Logistics Park, Eshongweni Mixed Use and this further confirmed investor confidence.

The DA expressed concern with the 93% collection rate, the debtor's book that has increased by 29%, outstanding loans which were close to R10 million as well as water losses. They indicated that during the budget speech, His Worship has failed to mention that the commissioning of Umkomaas Dam was due to be completed in 2032 and this meant that communities were far from accessing clean water. On the debtor's book, reference was made to the government debt sitting at R591 million and this had serious implications on service delivery. Emphasis was made that efforts to ensure that the government debt was collected will assist the Municipality in getting additional revenue.

Commenting on the budget, the EFF indicated that they have engaged the budget document and key to this was to see how it will assist poor communities. They noted that the threshold for residents with houses valued at R350 000 and below and this was supported as it will increase the number of households that will benefit through the Indigent Policy. Indication was given that they were slightly in support with the proposed increase on tariffs given the explanation provided on how this was arrived at. Confirmation was made that for areas that did not have access to basic services, it was vital that a budget was in place to address same hence the importance of Councillors to participate in the discussion and the approval of the budget. The EFF emphasised that they would ensure oversight on the implementation of the budget and indicated that they will support to the budget.

The Action SA joined the debate and pointed out that they will not subscribe to the notion that calls for the punishment of the paying residents based on the belief that they can afford. This budget was said to be in contrary to the views of the public as the tariffs were not affordable and service delivery was lacking in many areas. Indication was given that more businesses would be forced to close, and people would lose jobs. A huge economic impact was reported in the tourism sector with the recorded decrease from 68% to 60% on hotel occupations and visitors' statistics reflecting a decrease from 800 000 to 300 000 and this should be a course for concern.

Also commenting, the ABC pointed out that the views expressed by the residents during the consultations should not be overlooked and other political parties were urged not to support the budget for various reasons which included an increase on the tariffs. Furthermore, it was said that certain Community Residential Units were not billed for services rendered and the Non-Revenue Water was reported to have reached an alarming 60% and the government debt was set at R4 billion rands. As a solution, it was suggested that the Municipality should prioritise financial accountability and address issues related to electricity theft amongst others.

The ACDP expressed that water and electricity disconnections continue to be a going concern within the Municipality and this was linked to the lack of leadership from the ruling party. They further expressed that they will not support the proposed increase on tariffs as this was not responding to the needs of the people.

Joining the debate, the AIC mentioned that they were in support of the budget and the Indigent Policy was commended as it assisted in supporting the poor. Emphasis was made that all efforts should be made to monitor the implementation of the budget.

In support of the budget, the ANC indicated that the budget was a people's budget which was pro-poor in view of His Worship and his Executive Committee having undertaken a thorough consultative process with communities including the business sector. Concern was expressed in respect of the political parties that indicated that they have not had sight of the budget document at this meeting when this was dealt with comprehensively during the budget roadshows. In building the economy of the City, the bold initiatives by the City's leadership in investing in catalytic projects was commended as this was now bearing positive results. These projects included the building of the road infrastructure, developments like the Oceans Mall, Mall of the West in EShongweni amongst others. The going live of the Go! Durban project was hailed as it will bolster the economy of eThekweni and further assist to have an integrated City thus allowing residents to travel from one place to another seamlessly and further reduce travel time.

Continuing, the ANC pointed out that the manufacturing development projects that have been initiated in the west areas of eThekweni was a further confirmation of the good initiatives implemented to also contribute to job creation. The allocation of funds on recreational facilities such as sports grounds as well as swimming pools more especially in townships and rural areas was noted and will contribute a great deal in developing sports for the young people. It was also noted that the Nutrition Programme has since been expanded to cover areas that were not catered before.

Also supporting the budget, the APF welcomed the budget as it will improve the lives of the people within eThekweni Municipality.

Making an input and in support of the budget, the ATM stated that this budget came at a time when the City was faced with service delivery challenges with an inclined unemployment rate. Mention was made that it was worth noting that some tariffs, for example electricity, were set to be increased by 14%, however, following the consultation process this was later reduced to 12% and this confirmed that the views of the public have been taken into consideration in this regard. Emphasis was made that this budget must be seen benefiting eThekweni residents and those responsible for the implementation will be held accountable.

The DLC indicated that they were unable to support the budget that reflected lack on infrastructure development and the ongoing challenges on the provision of water especially in the northern areas of eThekweni. Furthermore, the budget was deemed a fiscal dumping as some of the projects contained therein might not be implemented. Parks and Recreation Unit was reported to be the biggest contributors in not implementing their budget completely. Emphasis was made that the safety and security of eThekweni residents was paramount and should not be ignored. The Water Department was criticised for not attending to water leaks timeously resulting to high percentages on water losses. The City was also encouraged to deal decisively with fraud and corruption.

In support of the budget, the KZNI welcomed the budget as it will assist eThekweni residents and emphasis was made that there should be no corruption in rendering the services.

Also in support, the MF thanked the leadership of eThekweni Municipality for engaging with the ratepayers on the budget even though such consultation did not result to significant changes on the proposed tariff increase. The MF expressed that this budget required a reasonable increase to consider infrastructure initiatives that can respond to climate change and the recycling of waste. Another major concern reported on was in respect of businesses closing due to City degeneration and massive budget was recommended to deal with this aspect.

Making input, the NFP pointed out that the preparation of this budget cannot be separated from the current economic challenges faced by the country. However, it was commendable that despite the said challenges, the Municipality has been able to re-adjust the tariffs. Mention was made that part of the municipal's budget was derived from the rates collected and residents were encouraged to continue honouring their payments. Reference was also made to various projects implemented by the City including the handing over of land to churches as well as the investments projects. On the inclusion of the climate change adaptation in municipal planning processes, this was commended because if this was ignored, the infrastructure may be affected negatively. Furthermore, the approval of the Smart Policing Solution was welcomed as it will aid in combating crime.

The PRM welcomed the budget in view of the evident implementation at Ward level. A plea was made that consideration be made to also include the areas of Amakhosi in the implementation of projects with more emphasis on the construction of access roads and bridges amongst others.

Joining the debate, the UIM raised with concern that the budget failed to adequately serve the needs of the Municipality and lacked essential supporting evidence in terms of the public input. It was said that compliance with statutory requirements was mandatory and the failure by the Municipality to meet these requirements was concerning. It was therefore imperative to rectify these deficiencies to ensure effective governance in that regard there was a need for the Municipality to review the drafting process of the budget to address compliance shortcomings with a view to produce a document that aligned with legal obligations. They thereafter indicated that they will not support the budget.

The VF PLUS pointed out that consideration should be made that the following were attended to, namely provision of water and electricity, safety and security. These aspects were deemed important to attract future investments in the City. Concern was also expressed regarding the debtors, backlog on infrastructure development.

The ANC welcomed the budget as it reflected that all processes have been adhered to and this is further supported by the changes that had been effected following the consultation process. Indication was given that it was alarming that some political parties opted to focus on the tariffs that have been increased whereas there are tariffs that had zero increase. Mention was made that the Municipality would not be able to function optimally if there was no budget in place. Commendations were expressed in respect of some of the budget being earmarked to address the electricity challenges because of loadshedding. To further confirm investor confidence, it was noted that several sod turnings in relation to projects have been undertaken. On the issue of inner-city regeneration, it was mentioned that there were projects underway to revive bad buildings within the City.

Continuing with the debate, the ANC extended its appreciation that through this budget, People Living With Disabilities will be assisted with dedicated transport. On the maintenance issues for the Moses Mabhida Stadium, it was reported that a budget of R390 million has been set aside for renovations, the upgrade of technology including the renovations for the SkyCar. Indication was also given that the number of Soup Kitchens has been increased from 87 to 94 and that going forward the plan was to have these in each Ward. On the verge of cutting, it was clarified that whilst this was done; however vacant plots that have been purchased for private use were only catered for once confirmation was received that the Municipality will be able to recoup the money from the landowner.

In further welcoming the budget, the ANC pointed out that this Municipality was one of the stable municipalities even though it was under a coalition. Reference was made to some key issues raised during the State of the City Address and it was highlighted that the service delivery planning for the Municipality was an open process as the City continued to report on the state of its finances. Emphasis was made that the National Treasury has rated the Municipality as having strong cash position and they further stated that the Municipality's debt to revenue ratio was between 13% to 17% when compared to other municipalities.

The Municipality was reported to have effective oversight structures that support the efforts of clean and inclusive governance, and these include the Municipal Public Accounts Committee as well as the Audit Committee.

Making input and remarking on the state of the City, the DA expressed concern that under the leadership of the ANC, the state of the City has collapsed in view of the continuous challenges at hand. The challenges included the bad state of the beaches resulting to a low turnout from tourists visiting Durban, financial mismanagement, irregular expenditure as well as crime to mention a few. The ongoing challenges were said to be negatively impacting service delivery. It was further mentioned that the Indigent Policy was ineffective because of some not being implemented effectively. Lack of internal controls and non-compliance to supply chain management processes was reported to be the biggest contributor into irregular expenditure.

The DA further indicated that they were strongly opposed to the debate underway due to the budget document circulated late and this had compromised the oversight role by Councillors. It was also expressed with concern that some dates for the budget consultation meetings were changed in the eleventh hour and in that regard, this process was seen to be flawed. They further affirmed that there should be no tariff increase until such time services were provided effectively to the communities. They also mentioned that they will not support the budget that was not affordable and unreasonable when compared with the level of services provided by the Municipality.

Concluding the debate, the ANC commended the political and administrative leadership for working tirelessly to ensure that a balanced budget was achieved.

Following a lengthy debate and with some Councillors not supporting the 2024/2025 budget presented, the matter was put to a vote. With 170 Councillors present, 112 Councillors (ANC-89, EFF-17, AIC-01, ATM-01, JEP-01, KZNI-01, NFP-01 and PRM-01) voted in support of the recommendations, 57 Councillors (DA-49, Action SA-02, ABC-02, ACDP-01, DLC-01, MF-01 and UIM-01) voted against the recommendations and 01 Councillor (VF PLUS-01) abstained.

The recommendations were by the majority vote, **ADOPTED.**

The meeting terminated at 15h45.

APPROVED THE MEETING OF THE ETHEKWINI COUNCIL ON 2024-08-01

SPEAKER