



City of Ekurhuleni

Ekurhuleni Talks Business

Friday, 28 August 2020



The City of Ekurhuleni's City Manager, Dr Imogen Mashazi with women EMPD officers in conducting a road block in Witfield, Boksburg.

CITY MANAGER JOINED FEMALE EMPD OFFICERS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT



The City of Ekurhuleni's City Manager, Dr Imogen Mashazi joined a team of female metro police officers in a roadblock at Witfield in Boksburg on Tuesday, 18 August 2020.

The roadblock focused on law enforcement and Covid-19 education and screening. Every year during the month of August, which is Women's Month, the City Manager joins women officers in a roadblock as part of the City Manager's Women in Uniform in Community Safety Legacy Project which is aimed at empowering metro police officers, female firefighters and disaster team through education and career progression. The legacy project was introduced by the City Manager in 2017 and has seen

many officers gaining promotion. Altogether, 204 vehicles were stopped and 73 fines were issued for infringements. About 118 pedestrians were stopped and searched whilst six shops were inspected and one compliance notice was issued.

The by-law enforcement team comprised of women from EMPD, Disaster and Emergency Management Services (DEMS) and Gauteng Community Safety. Dr Mashazi, who was with the City's

Chief of Police Isaac Mapiyeye, urged the women officers to take advantage of the learning opportunities provided by the City through bursaries to develop themselves so that they are in a better position to apply and be considered for senior positions.

As part of the legacy project the City of Ekurhuleni will host a virtual gala dinner to honour the best achievers among women officials in in community safety on Thursday, 27 August 2020.



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EMPD RAIDS EXPIRED FOOD REPROCESSING FACILITY

The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department (EMPD) and SAPS operation sparked by community activism led to the discovery of a facility in Springs on Friday, August 8 where expired and counterfeit food is reprocessed and repackaged. At least 13 people were charged with dealing with illicit goods and being in possession of suspected stolen property. City of Ekurhuleni's MMC for Community Safety, Cllr Phaladi Mmoko said that the police were following the tip-off from the community when they raided the property.

"In this property they are repurposing the expired consumables like sweets, chocolate, soft drinks and snacks, repackage them and

resell to the community. All these illegal actions are done under very unhygienic environment," he said.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the expired products that are reprocess products were destined for disposal. The police are investigating the possibilities of some of these products being stolen during delivery truck hijackings.

During the investigation at the property it was discovered that the premises did not comply with legislation governing hygiene for food premises, and the processed food did not comply with legislation on foodstuff, cosmetics and disinfectants.

CITY MANAGER LAMENTS THE DEATH OF FOUNDER OF EKURHULENI BUSINESS NETWORK



The late founder of Ekurhuleni Business Network Chris van Biljon participating in a City Meets Business engagement session in Germiston



City of Ekurhuleni City Manager Dr Imogen Mashazi

The City of Ekurhuleni City Manager Dr Imogen Mashazi has expressed shock and sadness at the passing of local businessman and founder of the Ekurhuleni Business Initiative which was later rebranded as the Ekurhuleni Business Network, Chris van Biljon.

The 72-year-old Mr Van Biljon passed on in his sleep in Kempton Park on Saturday.

"This is a very sad day for the people of Ekurhuleni especially the business community. Mr Van Biljon was a dedicated and a hard working individual who was passionate about the region," said Dr Mashazi. She says the partnership with Mr Van Biljon's EBN 'because we shared a similar vision in terms of ensuring that that Ekurhuleni's economy remained

vibrant and advocated for the success of local business regardless of the size'.

Mr Van Biljon initiated the business network organisation over 15 years ago to serve the interests of corporates, and small, medium and micro-sized enterprises throughout Ekurhuleni. He always believed in 'pushing the envelope in order to put businesses on the map and see them grow and prosper'.

"His passion for growing small business over all cultures will always be remembered. As a metro we hope that in his absence the EBN will continue with his vision to empower all enterprises so that they thrive and achieve profitability and success within the current unprecedented economic environment," said Dr Mashazi.

EKURHULENI IMPROVES ON GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE MANAGEMENT

The City of Ekurhuleni has received commendation from the Auditor-General on its performance in terms of good governance and sound fiscal management. This takes place on the backdrop of the Auditor-General having recently released the consolidated general report on local government audit outcomes for 2018-19.

While the City has not moved up from the unqualified report it received in the previous year, it has actively embarked on a process of capacitating its finance unit over the past few years, which has resulted in a gradual improvement in the quality of financial statements and a reduction in compliance findings, the Auditor-General said.

The City achieved the following highlights from the audit:

- The City of Ekurhuleni achieved an unqualified audit for the financial year 2018/2019;
- The City received a Clean Audit on financial statements;
- The City incurred zero unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure (for the second consecutive year);
- Irregular expenditure has decreased from R215 million in the previous financial year to R5 million in the 2018/2019 annual review;
- The Collection rate stood at 91% for the financial year in review
- The City has complied with 30 days payment of all invoices;
- Capex expenditure for the year stood at 94.31%;
- Overall Grant Funding spending for the year is 94%;
- Cash on hand for the year R3,5 billion;
- The City has performed very well on cost- containment worth R138,6 million for year under review;
- Management of both Water and Electricity losses are both below National Standards;
- The City achieved a 70% reduction in the number of non-compliance paragraphs recorded in the audit report;
- The City continues to shoulder the cost of a social package of R4 billion per annum;

Most instances of irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure that were reported in previous years were subjected to an investigation to ensure that consequence management is instituted by the City against transgressors.



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