

EKURHULENI Voice

Official Newsletter of the City of Ekurhuleni

KEEPING YOU UPDATED



City of Ekurhuleni

Vol 4 2023

Find us on

WEBSITE www.ekurhuleni.gov.za
TWITTER [@City_Ekurhuleni](https://twitter.com/City_Ekurhuleni)

FACEBOOK [City of Ekurhuleni](https://www.facebook.com/CityofEkurhuleni)
TIKTOK [@cityofekurhuleni](https://www.tiktok.com/@cityofekurhuleni)

INSTAGRAM [CityofEkurhuleni](https://www.instagram.com/CityofEkurhuleni)
LINKEDIN [City of Ekurhuleni](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CityofEkurhuleni)

The Legacy Lives on Through You

CITY CELEBRATES MANDELA DAY THROUGH ACTION

Mandela Day is an annual celebration on 18 July to honour the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. This day, Mandela's birthday, is a call to action for individuals, communities, and organisations to take time to reflect on Mandela's values and principles and to make a positive impact in their communities.

Activities this year saw the City, under the leadership of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Sivuyile Ngodwana, his mayoral committee members as well as the Speaker, HoDs and staff make sure that the legacy of Mandela lives on.



Handover of houses

This saw the City make service delivery a central focus point at MacKenzieville, Nigel, where newly built houses were painted with a buzz of other activities in partnership with AfriSam. The new homes were handed over to identified beneficiaries.



MMC for Roads and Transport, Cllr Andile Mgwevu, encouraged the community to extend the practice of making Mandela Day an everyday experience in their communities.



"Even partnerships like this with AfriSam show that we all need to pull together to achieve greatness," said Mayor Ngodwana.

Avi Bhoora from Afrisam emphasised that these strategic partnerships assist in building the nation. He commended the City on embarking on this partnership to make Mandela Day a success.



Shoe donations at open day

At the open day at MacKenzieville community hall a number of exhibitors

showed their wares, including local Pangea shoe manufacturing company that makes school shoes from car seat offcuts. The company has partnered with Correctional Services to manufacture shoes, and Auntie Mia was one of the lucky community members to receive a pair.

Reading for Mandela

Other activities included the City's Libraries joining hands with Gauteng Department of Education and Burger King to read to children at an early childhood development centre.

Donations

The City's team and its partner AJP received a warm welcome at Zodwa Mofokeng Day Care Centre for Older Persons in Thembisa. The home cares for the elderly and frail in and around Thembisa and AJP donated a cheque of more than R9 000 to the centre. Thembisa Child and Family Welfare Society also received a donation in partnership with AJP and Freshleys.

Mandela Month activities continue across the City during the month of July.

2

MAYOR LAUNCHES PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT AT WORK

3

EKURHULENI CLINCHES FOUR AWARDS FOR CLEAN GOVERNANCE FROM SALGA

4

ESSENTIAL TIPS TO STAY SAFE DURING WINTER

5

SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRICITY BILLS

EXECUTIVE MAYOR LAUNCHES *PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT AT WORK – MASISEBENZENI*

Executive Mayor Cllr Sivuyile Ngodwana launched the 'People's Government At Work - Masisebenzeni' programme in Katlehong, bringing a new era of active community engagement and service delivery.

Accompanied by officials from departments, Mayor Ngodwana will visit a different neighbourhood every second Friday to gain first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by residents and open bottlenecks.

The launch on 23 June 2023 included site visits to ongoing projects, such as a water reservoir under construction and efforts to address dolomitic ground issues.

The programme aims to promote accountability and ensure that the City is actively working to improve the lives of the community.

Also part of the programme, and youth month celebrations this June, title deeds were handed over to young individuals who were encouraged to emphasise the importance of treating their homes as investments.

The recipients were reminded of the legal requirement to own their RDP house for at least eight years before considering selling them. This initiative aims to empower young people and secure their future by providing them with a sense of ownership and stability.

Mayor Ngodwana reassured the community that the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) assigned to the area would work diligently to resolve the identified challenges.

He promised to return to Katlehong before the end of the year to assess progress and ensure that commitments made during the launch are being fulfilled.

The 'People's Government At Work - Masisebenzeni' programme signifies a new chapter in community-focused governance, where the executive takes an active role in understanding and addressing the needs of the people they serve.

The outreach programme continues throughout the City.



EKURHULENI CLINCHES FOUR AWARDS FOR CLEAN GOVERNANCE FROM SALGA

Not one, nor two but four awards were scooped by the City at the Awards for Excellent Governance at the Inaugural Municipal Audit Awards by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

Two first-places were clocked for the 2021/22 financial year clean audit outcome, and for good record keeping - a critical process in the audit purposes and measuring service delivery achievements.

A second-place award was received for capital expenditure on the allocated budget, and another second place for revenue collection and management.

The awards come on the back of the City's feat of securing three consecutive clean audits.

Accepting the awards, City Manager Dr Imogen Mashazi said, "I receive these awards with great honour and humility. We all know that it is never easy to achieve and maintain a clean audit in local government. However, as the City, we have always made this one of our key targets and managed to achieve it.

"We are proud to have received three consecutive clean audit opinions from the Auditor General and remain determined to maintain the status quo going forward," said Dr Mashazi.

The Audit Committee conducts quarterly reviews of internal processes and interrogates the City's performance to ensure that the administration remains committed to improving the controls. The oversight from the Audit Committee also contributes to the effectiveness of the turnaround strategy, which has translated to positive audit outcomes, explained Dr Mashazi.



WhatsAppening?

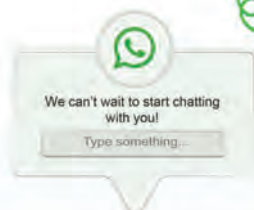
Our WhatsApp Business is what's happening!

Enjoy a more direct and transparent interaction with the City, from resolving account-related issues to submitting meter readings, the app provides a single platform for all your queries and concerns. AND, you'll be able to make payments using MasterPass, making your experience even more convenient.



Hello!

To connect to the Siyakhokha WhatsApp Business Channel just text 'Hey Siyakhokha' to +27 60 667 7177.



ESSENTIAL TIPS TO STAY SAFE DURING WINTER

With winter here, residents need to prioritise safety when trying to keep warm. The drop in temperature often leads to the use of various heating methods, and if not used properly they can pose serious risks, such as accidental fires.

The Department of Disaster and Emergency Management Services (DEMS) in the City urges residents to take precautions and put safety first. In particular, they emphasise, the vulnerability of those living in informal settlements during winter.

To ensure your safety during winter, here are some essential tips:

Heaters:

1. Never leave heaters unattended, even when you're asleep.
2. Always ensure a responsible adult is present when children are near heaters or candles.
3. Keep heaters at least one metre away from flammable items like bedding, curtains, tablecloths, and furniture.
4. If using gas heaters or fireplaces, make sure the room is adequately ventilated.
5. When leaving the room or the house, remember to switch off heaters, fireplaces, and air conditioners.

Braziers:

1. Before bringing a brazier inside, ensure that the coals are burning adequately without emitting smoke.
2. Provide adequate ventilation in the room to prevent the accumulation of harmful gases like carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide, which can endanger family members.
3. When going to bed, take the brazier outside to eliminate the risk of fire or exposure to toxic gases.

By following these safety tips, Ekurhuleni residents can enjoy a warm and secure winter season, minimising the risks associated with heating methods.



**RESPECT, PROTECT, SUPPORT,
SAFEGUARD OUR HEROES IN SERVICE**

**Attacks on emergency services
personnel means we cannot
assist you in your time of need.**

#StopvandalisingYOURcity



Call the City's Life Threatening Emergency Call Centre on **011 458 0911**, or use the emergency numbers **10177** or **112**. They will dispatch the nearest rescue team to assist you.

SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRICITY BILLS

The electricity bill is an expense that continues to become increasingly more expensive during the winter season. The rising demand for electricity means that power continues to be in short supply and the costs are going to remain high.

Consumers need to check their electricity bill to see if they are using more or less electricity each month. This is much simpler to manage on a prepaid account, where consumers can keep track of usage and how much they are spending.

Here are some electricity saving tips you can follow to reduce energy consumption and lower electricity bills:

1. **Use energy-efficient appliances:** Look for appliances that are designed to be more energy-efficient. They use less electricity and can significantly reduce your energy consumption.
2. **Unplug devices when not in use:** Many electronic devices continue to consume power even when they are turned off, or in standby mode. Unplugging them when not in use, or using power strips with switches to easily turn off multiple devices, can help eliminate this "phantom" energy usage.
3. **Optimise lighting:** Use energy-efficient LED light bulbs instead of traditional incandescent ones. LED bulbs use less power and last longer. Remember to turn off lights when leaving a room and make use of natural daylight whenever possible.
4. **Properly insulate your home:** Insulating your home properly can prevent heat loss during winter and keep it cooler during summer. You can do this by making sure windows and doors are properly sealed to avoid drafts.
5. **Air-dry clothes:** Rather air-dry your clothes instead of using a clothes dryer. Not only does it save electricity, but it also extends the life of your clothes.
6. **Reduce hot water usage:** Heating water consumes significant energy. Take shorter showers, wash laundry in cold water, and consider installing low-flow showerheads and tap aerators to reduce hot water usage.
7. **Use power-saving settings on electronics:** Adjust the power-saving settings on your electronic devices, such as computers and laptops, to minimise energy consumption. Enable sleep or hibernate mode when not used for extended periods.
8. **Make use of natural ventilation:** Open windows and use natural ventilation when weather permits, rather than use the air conditioning or fans.
9. **Regular maintenance:** Keep your appliances, heating, and cooling systems well-maintained to ensure optimal performance. Clean air filters, unclog vents and inspect for any leaks or malfunctions.

