



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

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Attention: News Editors, Journalists, Producers and Content Creators

For immediate release

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100 DAYS COUNCIL SPEECH DELIVERED BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR ALD NKOSINDIPHILE XHAKAZA ON THE OCCASION OF AN ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AT THE OR TAMBO GOVERNMENT PRECINCT

Speaker of Council,
Acting Whip of Council,
Leader of Government Business,
Members of the Mayoral Committee,
Members of Council,
City Manager,
Head of Departments and Senior Government Officials,
Members of the Gallery,
Members of Media and all our Social Partners,
Esteemed Residents of Ekurhuleni,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with profound gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility that I stand before you today, representing a city that embodies the spirit of determination, progress, and unity.

Today, we come together not only to mark 100 days of our administration but to reflect on the journey we have embarked upon together.

We gather here today as we close of the month of August. This is a month that serves as a poignant reminder of the revolutionary resistance and bravery displayed by our Women in 1956.

It represents a pivotal moment, a notable milestone in South Africa's history.

The historic march, masterfully organized by formidable leaders such as Lilian Ngoyi, Bertha Gxowa, Margaret Gazo, Amina Cachalia, and Adelaide Tambo showcased the courage and resilience that defined the anti-apartheid struggle.

These were the strong heroines who stood unwaveringly against the injustices of apartheid.

Their legacy lives on, reminding us of the enduring truth in their rallying cry: 'Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo'—'You strike a woman, you strike a rock.'

As we gather in this August House, we are reminded of the powerful legacy that shapes our identity.

Madam Speaker,

Our city's political landscape is a testament to the vibrancy of our democracy and the will of the people.

The results of the 2021 local government elections brought forth new challenges and opportunities, guided by the principles of cooperation, consultation, and unity of purpose, we will achieve stable and effective governance.

As we align ourselves with the Government of National Unity, we reaffirm our commitment to the values of inclusivity, equity, and collective progress.

The journey traversed, though filled with some challenges, has been marked by significant strides towards restoring service delivery and rebuilding public trust in our City.

The first step in our journey was to stabilise governance, guided by the following theme: "***A Responsive City Working with Agility to Restore Service Delivery to the People***"

This administration is still firmly committed to the **Six Key Pillars** aimed which are are:

- Provision of quality and sustainable services to all residents;
- Rebuilding of a strong financial base to support the city's development;
- Conducting essential repairs and maintenance of public facilities;
- Investment on critical infrastructure in partnership with the private sector;
- Economic development growth and job creation with a special focus on the Aerotropolis and the revitalisation the manufacturing sector; and
- Preserving Good and Ethical Governance.

In order to give effect to these pillars we have started to implement the mayoral flagship projects which are as follows;

- Setting a robust service delivery war room chaired by the mayor through ORIT;
- Restoring mayoral IZIMBIZO to give feedback to residents
- Restoration of mega projects and strategic land release.
- Operation Clean Audit.
- Establishing, reclaiming, and refurbishing of hijacked buildings;
- Setting up a well-defined Revenue Enhancement program;
- Supporting SMME through weekly monitoring of payments for services rendered
- Accelerating project completion through CAPEX monitoring and mayoral outreach; and
- Re-establish the University of Ekurhuleni advisory committee

Madam Speaker,

One of our key initiatives was the establishment of the “Mayoral Service Delivery War Room” – a multi-departmental platform designed to fast track the response time for service delivery.

The War Room is also designed to foster greater accountability and responsiveness, ensuring that we effectively address service interruptions or breakdown as reported in the incident management system (IMS).

Our understanding is that our strength lies in the voices of our people, and our commitment to the Freedom Charter, which states that, *‘The People Shall Govern’* we launched the Mayoral Imbizo Programme on the 9 May 2024, at Mehlareng Stadium in Tembisa.

We spoke to our people, and as a result we were able to resolve the persistent service delivery issues on the spot. Amongst the issues attended to includes,

- The visit to the Mooifontein cemetery amid outcry of lack maintenance. We cleared illegal dumping, cut the grass, attended to vandalised palisade fencing and other security aspects of the cemetery.
- A water leak in Teanong section which has been unresolved for 2 years costing the city gallons of clean water was closed.
- We did an in loco inspection at the Flint Mazibuko bridge to ascertain that the contractor is on site and that there is work being done.
- We visited the Electricity Substation D to get first hand information on capacity constraints
- We used the izimbizo to assist communities with Debt rehabilitation and indigent application.
- The roll out of the izimbizo took us to Kwathema and We delivered a transformer, as the damaged transformer was taken out for repairs for an extended period of time. This ensured grid capacity and stabilization just before the winter season.
- The communities of Etwatwa are delighted of the impact of the IMBIZO because we have been able to clear a Major sewer blockage at Etwatwa small Bridge. but also we were able to attend to the roads and storm water upgrade in Thembelihle School.
- The Tsakane Imbizo focussed on inspecting the reservoirs and brought about interventions and relief to the water challenges.
- The katlehong version of the Mayoral outreach handed over the Vosloorus Multi-Purpose centre to the Community and also went to the Kathlehong fire station, to fast track the process of the project completion.

These IMBIZO's are critical in ensuring that we identify the stubborn service delivery breakdown and resolve them efficiently. They further connect us with our people, strengthens accountability, transparency and build trust with our communities. The IMBIZO's will happen once every six months.

Madam Speaker,

It is with great excitement that we announce that we recently received important news from Transnet that they will be investing in our city to a tune of R1 Billion to their infrastructure development linking from Alrode to OR Tambo International Airport. The Aerotropolis implementation is in motion.

Madam Speaker,

It is through strategic initiatives and partnerships that we can empower our communities, support emerging businesses, and create sustainable livelihoods for our people.

Over the past 100 days, we have made tangible progress in advancing our local economy, with a strong focus on empowering historically marginalised groups and the youth of the city.

One of the key initiatives we have embarked upon is the Emerging Black Farmers Programme.

We are proud to report that we are currently supporting 1000 emerging farmers and have released 20 farms, and we are further giving support to 33 cooperatives, 40 workers, and 25 community gardens.

This programme is not just about agricultural development; it is about transforming lives and creating economic opportunities.

The Department of Economic Development has entered into strategic partnerships with nine anchor entities at Spaarwater Farm, where the re-blocking of Spaarwater 171 IR and portion 6 of Vlakfontein into a 40-hectare plot was successfully finalised.

Each anchor entity has been allocated 40 hectares of arable land, and work is already in progress to prepare for the 2024/25 planting season.

In June 2024, we conducted a two-day accredited training programme on soil nutrient management for members of the 33 local cooperatives at Spaarwater Farm.

This training is crucial for enhancing the agricultural skills of our cooperatives, ensuring that they are well-equipped to succeed in their farming endeavours.

Additionally, 40 EPEP brigades received training on primary agricultural production systems, further strengthening our commitment to local agricultural development and food security.

Our efforts to support community gardens have also borne fruit.

We have distributed agricultural starter packs to Usizolwethu Special School in Daveyton and Ekukhanyeni Primary School in Wattville, helping to establish community food gardens that will provide fresh produce and foster a sense of community involvement.

Honourable Councillors,

In our ongoing efforts to boost the township economy, Ekurhuleni had the honour of hosting the Township Economy Conference on the 30th and 31st of July 2024 at Emperors Palace.

This event brought together township economic development practitioners and businesses to exchange ideas, promote their products and services, and explore new market opportunities.

As the host city, we were proud to have 20 SMMEs, selected from various incubation programs initiated by our Economic Development Department, exhibit their products at the conference.

Looking forward, we have set our sights on the development of township markets.

These markets are not only vital for local economic growth but also serve as a backbone for black industrialisation in our Region.

We have identified key sites across Ekurhuleni, including **Tembisa**, **Kwa-Thema**, and **Thokoza**, where we are working to formalise informal trading environments and create sustainable, community-driven businesses.

Through partnerships with various stakeholders, including the Department of Small Business Development and the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency, we are investing in the infrastructure and support systems necessary to transform these markets.

This initiative will enhance economic participation at the grassroots level, providing opportunities for our people to thrive in a more structured and supportive environment.

These small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, and we are committed to supporting their growth and success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Youth empowerment remains a critical focus of our economic development strategy.

On the 20th of June 2024, we hosted the Youth Empowerment Summit at Germiston City Hall, where 2,000 EPEP brigades were provided with exit support and guidance on new venture creation.

This event was a vital step in equipping our young people with the tools and resources they need to build their own futures.

Furthering our commitment to youth development, we inducted 1,400 young people into the six-month PEP work readiness programme at Germiston Stadium.

This program is designed to prepare our youth for the job market, providing them with the skills and experience necessary to succeed in their careers.

Through these initiatives, we are not just building a stronger economy; we are building a more inclusive and resilient Ekurhuleni.

We are creating opportunities for all our residents to thrive, and we are laying the groundwork for a prosperous future for our city.

Madam Speaker,

Our administration recognises that access to reliable and sustained electricity is not just a matter of convenience; it is a fundamental driver of local economic growth, social development, and human dignity.

Before I proceed, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Leadership of the country and the leadership of Eskom on not implementing load-shedding for the past 150 days.

We anticipate that this trend will continue and loadshedding will soon be a thing of the past.

Madam Speaker,

In the past 100 days, we have made significant strides in expanding and enhancing energy infrastructure across our city, particularly in communities that have long been underserved.

It is a testament to what can be accomplished when we all work together towards a common goal and vision.

The “*Khanyisa Mhlali*” campaign as led by the MMC for energy has yielded great results, through this campaign there has been significant progress.

We have successfully electrified 202 households in the Madelakufa informal settlement in Tembisa, bringing light and power to families who have waited far too long for this necessity.

I am pleased to report that the remaining 23 households in Madelakufa will be electrified in the 2024/2025 financial year, once the re-blocking process is complete.

This commitment underscores our resolve to ensure that every resident has access to reliable electricity, no matter where they live.

In Vusimuzi phase 4 informal settlement, we are on track to electrify 143 households, which will further enhance the quality of life for the people of this community.

We understand that these are not just numbers; they represent lives transformed and opportunities unlocked.

Our efforts have also extended to improving safety and security in our neighbourhoods through the installation of high mast lights.

We have installed these critical lights in Madelakufa, Vusimuzi phase 4, Duduza, Tembisa 1, Tembisa 2, Daveyton, Etwatwa, and Ramaphosa informal settlement.

These high mast lights do more than illuminate our streets; they stand as beacons of safety, reducing crime and making our communities feel more secure after dark.

In addition, we have made significant progress in enhancing street lighting across various extensions in Clayville.

We have installed 154 streetlights in total, with 14 in Extension 79, 4 in Extension 80, 58 in Extension 77, and 78 in Extension 78.

These initiatives are more than just infrastructure projects; they are investments in the future of our city.

They are about ensuring that our residents can walk the streets with confidence, that our children can study under the light of a streetlamp, and that our communities can thrive in a safe and secure environment.

This is just the beginning. As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding these efforts, ensuring that every corner of Ekurhuleni is lit up with the promise of a better tomorrow.

We have managed to improve responsiveness of energy queries from 76,44 to 88,71 in the 4th quarter, this is a demonstration that the measures we have employed in the war room are yielding the desired results.

I would like to address a recent issue that has affected our community.

The lack of communication and coordination with Rand Water during their planned maintenance has been a unpleasant professional experience for us.

We have met with the leadership of Rand Water, and we have raised our concerns with them, and we will be meeting with them for follow up discussions.

With War room intervention in the department of water, we are glad to report that our none revenue water reduction improved from **30,94% to 29,84%**, in 4th Quarter, it's marginal improvement, we are however on the right path.

We have undertaken a few projects that we hope will provide long term relief for our residence these projects are as follows:

- 1226 new water connection meeting were installed
- The following reservoirs were completed
- Vogelfontein Reservoir
- Palmridge Reservoir
- Modder East

- Kempton Park Tower
- Russel Road Reservoir
- 7, 55 KM of water and sewer pipes were upgraded and replaced

It is worth noting that we have registered great improved in the turnaround times in resolving reported water interruptions from 89.46 in the 3rd Quarter to to 91,6% in 4th quarter (IMS).

Honourable Councillors,

The health of our environment is intrinsically linked to the well-being of our citizens and the economic vitality of our city.

Green infrastructure is not only essential for fostering a healthier and more sustainable Ekurhuleni, but it is also a powerful driver of economic development.

By prioritising green spaces, efficient waste management, and sustainable practices, we are laying the foundation for a city that thrives both now and in the future.

I am pleased to report that our Department of Environmental Resources and Waste Management is making a significant turnaround.

This progress is evident in the numerous milestones we have achieved over the past 100 days.

First, I want to highlight the reopening of the Rietfontein landfill site, which had been closed for nearly 12 months following community complaints of odour.

After extensive engagement with the community, we reached a resolution that has allowed the site to become fully operational once again.

Importantly, no complaints have been received from the community since reopening, and the site operator has honoured the agreement.

In addition, we have strengthened our waste management capabilities with the delivery of **seven new** waste compactor trucks, purchased at a cost of R23m.

These trucks are essential for maintaining cleanliness across our city and boosting in-house capacity.

Furthermore, an additional R2,8m has been utilised to purchase four bakkies for depot staff, which will enhance the efficiency of our operations.

We have also commissioned two new working cells at the Weltevreden Landfill site, increasing the airspace and extending the site's lifespan by approximately eight years.

This investment is crucial for ensuring that our waste management infrastructure can meet the demands of our growing city.

We have registered some improvement in the area of Waste, which are 35,33 Quarter 3 – 41,43 Quarter 4 though the performance is below 50% is still signals a move in the positive direction.

Madam Speaker,

Our Parks and Cemeteries division has received R10 million worth of much-needed grass-cutting and arboriculture equipment, including bush cutters, chainsaws, and ride-on mowers.

This new equipment will enable our parks depots to maintain and beautify green spaces across Ekurhuleni, contributing to a cleaner and more pleasant environment for all residents.

We have also relaunched the '**Clean-Your-Kasi**' campaign, an extensive clean-up initiative focused on our township communities.

This campaign is more than just a call to action; it is a movement to instil pride and responsibility in maintaining the cleanliness of our neighbourhoods.

By working together, we can create cleaner, healthier, and more vibrant communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch the Climate Change Action Plan 2024, a comprehensive strategy to address the pressing challenges of climate change.

With support from the C40 Cities, we have reviewed and updated the draft report, including technical updates on the greenhouse gas inventory, 2050 projections, and revised targets for 2030 and 2050.

Our Green Cities Action Plan (GCAP) has been finalised and will be incorporated into this broader climate strategy.

Through these initiatives, we are demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

We are not only addressing immediate needs but also planning for a future where Ekurhuleni can be a leader in urban sustainability, setting an example for other cities across South Africa and beyond.

Madam Speaker,

The recent Victims of Crime Report released by Stats SA on Tuesday has highlighted a concerning decline in the sense of safety among individuals in our communities since 2019/20.

This report serves as a stark reminder that our work in ensuring public safety is far from over, and it drives us to double our efforts to create safer environments for all.

In response to these challenges, I am pleased to announce the completion and signing off the Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department Edleen Precinct in Kempton Park's Northern Region.

This new precinct will significantly enhance police coordination in the region, allowing for more effective law enforcement and quicker response times.

The establishment of this precinct is a major step forward in our ongoing mission to improve public safety and restore confidence in our law enforcement agencies.

In addition to strengthening our physical infrastructure, we are also investing in the skills and capabilities of our law enforcement personnel.

The Traffic Wardens Upskilling Program is a key initiative in this regard. Out of the 580 wardens enrolled in this program, 435 have successfully completed their training and are ready to be awarded certificates.

The remaining 145 wardens are in the final stages of their training and will soon join their peers in contributing to the safety of our roads and neighbourhoods.

As we continue to address the safety concerns highlighted in the recent report, I want to assure all residents that this administration will not rest until we have restored and enhanced the sense of security in every community across Ekurhuleni.

Together, we can create a safer, stronger, and more resilient city for all.

Honourable Councillors,

Over the past 100 days, we have made substantial progress in enhancing and expanding our transport and road networks to better serve the people of Ekurhuleni.

We have successfully completed the installation of streetlights along several key roads in our city, including Andrew Mapheto Drive, Zuurfontein Road, CR Swart Drive, and Pretoria Road.

These installations not only improve visibility and safety for motorists and pedestrians but also contribute to the overall sense of security in our communities.

In our ongoing efforts to improve public transport infrastructure, we have completed the construction of trunk routes in critical areas.

Specifically, we have finished the Area 7B construction of trunk routes along Pretoria Road between Mars and Plane Streets, and the Area 7A construction along Pretoria Road between Wellington Intersection Streets.

These routes are essential for improving the efficiency and reliability of our public transport system, making it easier for residents to move across the city. Additionally, we have completed the Area 5C project, which involved the construction of 6 kilometres of non-motorized transport lanes along CR Swart Drive and within the Central Business District.

These lanes are designed to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, promoting healthier and more sustainable modes of transportation in our urban environment.

Furthermore, we are in the final stages of refurbishing the public transport facilities at the Zonkizizwe Taxi Rank.

This refurbishment will enhance the functionality and comfort of this important transport hub, ensuring that it meets the needs of the thousands of commuters who rely on it daily.

Madam Speaker,

It is important to mention that out of the 14 000 roads queries lodges 10 000 have been resolved we are making great and significant progress in the our efforts to resolve the various service delivery issues.

The improvement of customer queries has significantly improved from 58,37% in the Quarter 3 – 73,27 % in Quarter 4 this is attributed to the Hlasela Amapothole program.

This just goes to demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of the Service delivery War room.

We welcome the revival of the Siyakhoka Siyathuthuka revenue enhancement Campaign by the MMC of finance which seeks to remind our people about the importance of paying for services.

As Executive Mayor I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to all councillors to spread this very important message to all their various constituencies.

This approach by the MMC of Finance aligns very well with the establishment of the war room which assisted to accelerate capex spending with an achievement of 99%.

The war room also assisted to accelerate grants spending, in 2023 financial year unspent grants was R154 million and at 30 June 2024 unspent grants is sitting at R43m, this figure will reduce further as the finance finalise the capturing of all accruals.

- the city also improved on cash on hand balance R592m to R615m, with the robust credit control, and the introduction of the revenue enhancement strategies, this figure will improve even further in the new financial year

- the city was also able to achieve 90% revenue collections

- the city has implemented a turnaround strategy to address all issues raised by AG, and we are on track to submit the financial statements and annual report to AG on time. We remain confident that we put controls in place to achieve the clean audit.

The TMC is the heart of our Unified Command Centre. Together myself, MMC Energy and Safety visited the TMC, we noted the state of the Art investment in Technologies in surveillance and crime prevention. Including camera surveillance roll out, anti-cable theft early warning systems. We take note of the success rates of these deployments of the surveillance cameras and their successful rates of early warning detection systems of crime. We acknowledge the innovative ways in which ICT can be used to fight crime,

CRM: Our efforts to strengthen Customer Relation Management and the call centre has achieved a service delivery increase in the positive from 70,2 % – 91,4 %. This is due to interventions made, such as the tools of trade being made available for call centre agents this comes as result of ICT interventions from Mayoral War room and community engagements.

On Monday the 19th of August 2024, I held a meeting with the Department of Higher Education Project Steering Committee to receive an update on the establishment of the Ekurhuleni University of Science and Technology. This is the second phase of the process towards the establishment of the University.

The first phase was completed two years ago with the then Minister of Higher Education and as part of the pronouncements by the Executive Mayor in the State of the City Address, the realisation of the University of Ekurhuleni is part of the Flagship projects.

The establishment of the Advisory Committee and convening the 2nd University Symposium, as feedback to the residents and all stakeholders on the progress made thus far.

We came in the last quarter and there is great improvement in in the overall system

As we conclude this reflection on our first 100 days in office, I stand before you filled with a deep sense of pride in what we have accomplished together.

These past 100 days have been a testament to what we can achieve when we unite under a shared vision:

A vision where councillors rise above their differences and personal interests, coming together with a shared commitment to the betterment of our city.

Honour Councillors,

Let us be clear; this is just the beginning. The foundation we have laid is strong, but the true test of our resolve will be in the days, months, and years to come.

We have set ambitious goals, and it is through our continued hard work, dedication, and collaboration that we will turn these goals into lasting realities.

Together, we will continue to drive the transformation that Ekurhuleni needs, ensuring that our city not only meets the expectations of today but also rises to the aspirations of tomorrow.

As we move forward, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to building a brighter, more equitable future for every person who calls Ekurhuleni home.

Let's do more together in the City of Ekurhuleni.

I thank you.

END

Issued by the Office of the Executive Mayor of the City of Ekurhuleni

For more information, members of the media may contact the Acting Mayoral Spokesperson, Mr. Ramatolo Tlotleng on 074 478 4403 or ramatolo.tlotleng@ekurhuleni.gov.za

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