REMARKS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, CLLR CYRIL XABA AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE BEACHWOOD COASTAL ESTATE, 24 OCTOBER 2025

- MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs: Rev Musa Zondi
- George Elphick: Principal Architect at Elphick Proome Architects
- Carol Reynolds: Principal Pam Golding Properties
- Gavin Strydom: Property developer Edstan Group
- Government officials present
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon

It gives me great pleasure to be part of this historic milestone of the unveiling of the Beachwood Coastal Estate – another catalytic project that enhances the skyline of Durban North. This development also affirms that Durban is open for business and we continue to become a construction hub.

I must hasten to indicate that the launch of the Beachwood Coastal Estate is the outcome of what can be achieved through government/private collaboration. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate developers Edstan Group, eThekwini Municipality and the provincial government for partnering to bring this project to fruition.

The Beachwood Coastal Estate has a total value of R3.6 billion and forms part of our R217 billion catalytic projects that we are implementing in the period of five years. I am aware that Edstan Group is also investing R1.6 billion in the Whetstone Business Park development adjacent to King Shaka International Airport. We really appreciate the confidence you continue to show in Durban, signaling that Durban is on the rise.

When I tabled the budget policy statement for 2025/26 early this year, I indicated that the municipality would allocate over R600 million to upgrade infrastructure for catalytic projects to attract more investment and create jobs.

Beachwood Coastal Estate brings a new standard of eco-conscious living to the region, offering freehold stands, large luxurious drive-up apartments, and opulent duplexes.

We are excited that the current rates contribution of this development to the eThekwini Municipality is R3,6 million per annum. Once it is complete, the rates will increase to approximately R100 million per annum.

The benefits of this development extend beyond economic stimulus; the project aims to positively impact the surrounding area by increasing the market value of neighbouring properties, to improve safety using technologically advanced security systems with 24/7 security presence and to preserve & enhance the delicate ecosystem around which it is built.

For the people of KwaZulu-Natal, the development is a welcome addition as it will create 1,500 temporary jobs during construction and create over 2,500 permanent jobs after completion.

Programme Director, last year I engaged key property sector players in eThekwini to resolve administrative red tape in development applications. I am pleased that together, we are unblocking tedious processes which frustrate investors. Again, this exemplifies how public-private sector interests can align for mutual benefit.

This year alone, our collaborations have also yielded the R25 billion Sibaya Precinct Development and the R1.5 billion Westown development which the first phase of the R15 billion Shongweni development.

As a city, we are continuing to create a conducive environment for business to thrive in Durban by improving and maintaining bulk services infrastructure. My team from water and sanitation confirms that for the first time in five years, all our water reservoirs in the city, except two in Umlazi and Phoenix, are operating at full capacity.

This reflects our efforts on the ground of repairing water leaks and burst pipes which has led to a 2.9% decline in non-revenue from July to September. This indicates that we are on track to reduce non-revenue water by 5% annually as per our water turnaround and sanitation turnaround strategy.

This demonstrates that we are a city at work and committed to improve our infrastructure to cope with the new demands of a growing city.

Let me once again congratulate everyone who has worked diligently to make this occasion a resounding success. We looking forward to launching more projects of this magnitude throughout the city.

I thank you