OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CRAIGIEBURN HR CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

- Programme Director
- Cllr Jane Naidoo
- Acting Director Human Capital: Mr Elliot Makhaye
- The community of Ward 99

Good Morning

- Today marks the official opening of the Craigieburn Human Resource (HR) Centre of Excellence, a significant milestone in expanding access to digital resources and opportunities for residents in the southern region of eThekwini.
- The Craigieburn HR Centre of Excellence is equipped with 16 computers, providing community members with access to technology and online services.
- The Centre is also equipped with a free Wi-Fi zone, enabling users to access the internet for educational, employment, business, and personal development purposes.
- With the opening of the Craigieburn HR Centre of Excellence, the total number of HR Centres of Excellence across eThekwini has grown to 31. These facilities are strategically located to ensure that

communities throughout the city have access to technology, information, and digital services.

- Craigieburn forms part of the 12 HR Centres of Excellence operating in the southern region of eThekwini, demonstrating the Municipality's commitment to bringing digital opportunities closer to local communities.
- The launch of this Centre is aligned with the Municipality's Smart City vision and its commitment to embracing the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- This initiative promotes digital inclusion and equitable access to technology, particularly for communities that have historically faced barriers to accessing digital resources.
- The Craigieburn HR Centre of Excellence supports the City's vision of creating opportunities for skills development, empowerment, and economic growth.
- As June is Youth Month, the Centre will play a vital role in assisting young people to access employment opportunities, further their education, apply for bursaries, create email accounts, compile CVs, prepare business proposals, and conduct research for projects and assignments.

- The facility will help equip young people with the digital skills and tools needed to participate effectively in an increasingly technology-driven world.
- At a time when many families are facing economic challenges, the Centre provides a valuable service by offering free access to technology and the internet within the community, reducing the need for residents to travel long distances to access such resources.
- The centre has been established to serve and empower the community. We therefore encourage residents to take ownership of this facility and work with the Municipality to protect it from vandalism and misuse, ensuring that it continues to benefit current and future generations.

WATER AND SANITATION

While we celebrate the opening of the Craigieburn HR Centre of Excellence, the Municipality remains committed to addressing other critical service delivery needs affecting communities in the south of Durban, including water security and sanitation infrastructure.

To address current and future water supply challenges, the Municipality is implementing the Lower uMkhomazi Water Project, which will provide an additional 100 megalitres of water. Of this, 75 megalitres will be allocated to Durban, significantly strengthening the City's water supply network.

Once completed, this major investment will greatly improve water security for communities in the southern region, from Isipingo to uMkhomazi, helping to eliminate persistent water supply challenges and ensuring a more reliable and sustainable water supply for residents and businesses.

The Municipality is also planning the construction of a regional wastewater treatment works in uMkhomazi. This strategic project will serve communities across the southern region and address growing capacity constraints at existing wastewater treatment facilities.

In addition to improving sanitation services, the new wastewater treatment works will support future residential, commercial, and industrial development, creating an enabling environment for economic growth, investment, and job creation in the south of Durban.

These investments demonstrate the Municipality's commitment to building resilient infrastructure, improving quality of life, and creating sustainable communities that are well-positioned for future growth and development.