ADDRESS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, COUNCILLOR CYRIL XABA AT THE SA ARMY COLLEGE EXERCISE IMFAZWE TOUR, 26 AUGUST 2026

- Programme Director
- The Commandant of the South African Army College
- Senior Officers and members of the South African National Defence Force
- Members of the Joint Senior Command and Staff Course
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour and a privilege to welcome you to eThekwini, a city shaped by resilience, diversity, innovation, and a proud history. As you embark on this important phase of Exercise Imfazwe, we are particularly pleased to have the Junior Command and Staff Course Class of 2026 with us.

Your presence here is a reminder that effective military leadership is developed not only in classrooms, command centres, and training areas, but also through meaningful engagement with communities, exposure to scientific and technological innovation, and an appreciation of the socio-

technical realities that continue to shape our nation and the broader security environment.

South Africa continues to invest significant resources in developing and sustaining a capable, professional, and appropriately equipped defence capability. This demonstrates both the scale of responsibility entrusted to our defence institutions and the importance of ensuring that every resource placed at their disposal is utilised efficiently. In an increasingly complex security environment, military capability is no longer defined solely by personnel, platforms, and equipment. It is equally dependent on the quality of leadership, the effective integration of technology, sound decision-making, and an informed understanding of the environment in which our armed forces are called upon to operate.

As the Junior Command and Staff Course Class of 2026, you therefore carry an enormous responsibility. Exercise Imfazwe provides you with a pivotal opportunity to broaden and deepen your understanding of operational concepts, military strategy, leadership, and the application of military capability within the broader national context.

More importantly, it offers an opportunity to reflect on the relationship between military capability, technological advancement, national development, and the communities that the defence force ultimately serves.

As you engage with the various aspects of this tour, I encourage you to approach each interaction with an open mind and a willingness to learn. Take the opportunity to ask difficult questions, challenge assumptions, and consider how technological innovation and human capability can be harnessed to address the security challenges of the future. Equally important, remember that behind every capability, system, or strategy are people, and it is ultimately through people that military organisations succeed.

As you continue your journey through the Junior Command and Staff Course, may you emerge not only as more capable officers, but as leaders who understand the weight of their responsibilities and the profound impact their decisions can have on those entrusted to their care.

We thank you for your service to South Africa, welcome you once again to eThekwini, and wish you every success during Exercise Imfazwe.

I thank you.