EXCO REMARKS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY DEPUTY MAYOR, CLLR ZANDILE MYENI, 25 FEBRUARY 2025

- Speaker of Council
- Whip of Council
- Chairpersons of Committees
- City Manager and Senior Management
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to this EXCO meeting which takes place against the backdrop of another round of heavy rains that adversely affected the community of eThekwini.

From the onset, we wish to convey our deepest condolences to the families and friends who lost their loved ones during the floods last week. Following the recent devasting torrent rains, the communities of KwaMakhutha, Ensimbini, eFolweni, and Demat continue to count the heavy losses as the floods damaged their homes and claimed family members.

We must find comfort in the fact that all spheres of government are working in tandem to ensure there is adequate help for the affected communities. As the EXCO, we accompanied the Mayor and MEC for Transport and Human Settlements Mr Siboniso Duma to visit these areas to assess the damage and we have no doubt that the response we have provided has eased the pain to affected families.

Part of the assistance we have provided include mattresses, food hampers and blankets. Those who have lost family members, the municipality will be assisting the families to ensure that their loved ones receive a dignified burial.

Colleagues, the recent floods came at the time when the city was already grappling with water challenges. The same communities in the south and some parts of the central have been experiencing intermittent water supply. We are confident that the plans that the city has been working on will yield positive results and we look forward to the unveiling of these plans tomorrow.

Ladies and gentlemen, on the issue of spaza shops registrations, we wish to urge owners to come forward and register their businesses at the nearest municipal offices before the deadline of 28 February. To date, out of 5,500 registration applications, there has been 1,402 approved applications.

Among the challenges the city has faced are phone numbers that are not reachable and addresses that do not correspond to the location provided which makes it impossible to verify the authenticity of the applications.

We are pleading with those who submitted their applications and have not received any feedback to come forward and approach the nearest municipal offices and Sizakala Centres where they submitted their forms so that they can be assisted. We want to encourage, particularly those who applied between November and December 2024 to contact the licensing office.

We want to stress fellow councillors and colleagues that the city's law enforcement agencies and health officials will intensify their operations to ensure that there is compliance to the bylaws. We wish to assure the people of eThekwini that we will not tolerate any business that operates in the city without proper licenses, and we will close establishments that flout the city's bylaws.

With these remarks, let me welcome you all to this meeting and we are looking forward to fruitful engagements.

I thank you.