EXCO REMARKS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, CLLR CYRIL XABA, 6 MAY 2025

- Deputy Mayor
- Speaker of Council
- Whip of Council
- Chairpersons of Committees
- EXCO members
- City Manager and the Executive Management
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

Let me welcome you all to this EXCO meeting.

As the leadership of the city, we are excited that since the Easter Holidays, eThekwini Municipality has been a hive of activity, hosting major international conferences, music concerts and sporting events.

This past weekend, we hosted the fifth edition of the Durban International Marathon which was a resounding success. Both the 10 and 42km races attracted close to 10 000 people in the city. This demonstrates that this race is growing in leaps and bounds. What makes this race significant for runners is that it qualified them for the upcoming Comrades Marathon.

We are pleased that no incidents were reported during the event which speaks volumes about the thorough preparations made by the organising team.

As we prepare to host the Nedbank Cup Final this coming Saturday at the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium, we are confident that the city will deliver a spectacular cup final. This will not be the first game involving the two Soweto giants to be hosted at the Moses Mabhida Stadium and we have never disappointed the fans. We want to assure people who will be attending the match that we have left no stone unturned in ensuring that we deliver a safe and memorable cup final.

An integrated safety and security plan encompassing all law enforcement agencies has been developed to ensure that spectators in and around the stadium are safe. Police will maintain high visibility on the road and in various places of entertainment.

This soccer showpiece will be followed by the Africa's Travel Indaba which takes place from 13-15 May at the Durban International Convention Centre. This three-day iconic African leisure trade show will attract over 9000 delegates including tourism exhibitors, international and local buyers. We must use this event to showcase our vibrant culture and a wide range of tourism products.

We have no doubt that all these events will lay a solid foundation for the Comrades Marathon in June and the Hollywoodbets Durban July.

Colleagues, let me also take this opportunity to report that the draft budget and IDP consultations are proceeding well. So far, we have been able to consult the business, ratepayers, disability sector and various communities. Tomorrow, we will be in Umlazi in the morning and Chatsworth in the afternoon. We are confident that we will meet our target of finalising these engagements by the 15th of May.

As expected, one of the key service delivery issues our communities are raising is intermittent water supply. What gives these communities comfort is that we now have a concrete plan to turnaround our water and sanitation business. Therefore, we must move with speed to implement this plan because our communities have been patient enough.

Finally, I want to urge the officials through the City Manager to ensure that service delivery issues that are being raised during these engagements such as overgrown verges, faulty streetlights, water, and sewer spillages are attended to urgently.

It would be remiss of me not to condemn the unfortunate incident that occurred in Chatsworth yesterday at Reservoir 4 where our Water Distribution Officers were threatened and prevented from doing their work by a group of people.

This criminal behaviour deprived many communities of Chatsworth of water supply as per the water rationing schedule. The senior management of water and sanitation are putting in place safety measures to ensure that workers are able to do their work and restore water supply to affected communities.

With these remarks, let me welcome you all and we look forward to a fruitful meeting.

I thank you