



**Address by His Worship, the Mayor, Cllr James
Nxumalo,
On the Occasion of the eThekweni Municipal Area-Based
Skills Audit**

**01 October 2015-09h00
Durban City Hall – Main Auditorium**

- Programme Director Ms Tozi Mthethwa,
- Fellow Councillors,
- Religious leaders,
- Distinguished guests,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to greet you as we officially launch the eThekweni Municipal Area-Based Skills Audit which will determine the existing and efficient skills in communities. This will enlighten under-utilized human capital which can be re-invested into creating a viable local economy.

Programme Director, eThekweni, through its Municipal Academy, has undertaken to conduct a community-wide based skills audit. Our Municipality is exploring skills and educational levels that our local people have obtained. The skills audit will further look at existing businesses and identify gaps for developmental purposes.

The skills audit is targeting unemployed residents in our Municipal area and small businesses. The audit will also point to areas in which training and education are needed so that suitable intervention can be developed and implemented.

Programme Director, the skills audit was piloted in July this year in the South Durban Basin in wards 64, 66, 69, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89 and 90. Members of the community participated very actively in the skills audit exercise. Over the period of July and August this year, 5000 skills audit forms were distributed in these 18 wards and a total of 4180 forms were returned for capturing. As we extend the skills audit to other wards in eThekweni today, I am confident that this project will be successful.

Ladies and gentlemen, the audit will also promote job creation because personnel in each ward will be engaged to co-ordinate and administer the collection of data using a questionnaire which has been developed as a tool for data collection. Administrative personnel are sourced from wards and placed at Municipal or Councillor offices as their workstations.

Administrative personnel have been working since July this year and receive a monthly stipend. The one-year contract will end in June 2016. To be selected to work in this project requires that you have a Grade 12 qualification and at least one-year higher education qualification in administration related studies.

The data which has been collected will be analysed and uploaded onto a ward-based database system that is being created. The data will be available and accessible by relevant stakeholders in a local area who will need local skills to align them with opportunities and to put in place interventions to address skills gaps.

The skills audit data collection component will be rolled out for a period of three to four months, and thereafter will be analysed, packaged and populated into the eThekweni Municipal Database Information System, where it would be easily accessible by authorised users.

The skills audit will assist in decreasing eThekweni's official unemployment rate of 16,5, which is according to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey released by Statistics South Africa.

I must highlight that this programme is in line with the national and local governments' strategic objectives which include the New Growth Path through National Skills Accord, National Skills Development Strategy, the eThekwini Long Term Development Framework under Plan 2, which is aimed at economic development and job creation.

The community skills audit will enable unemployed youth to:

- Document assessment of skills and competencies,
- Build a database for existing local skills and gaps for the unemployed and small business,
- Provide a platform to exhibit as well as showcase various skills available locally.

This is in line with our local economic development plan which entails creating economic opportunities in and around areas where people live.

This skills audit programme will allow government and private sector the opportunity to draw locally required skills from a pool of confirmed skills.

In closing, I urge all eThekwini residents to fully support the skills audit project.

May I also extend my best wishes to the team. I am confident that the skills audit will proceed successfully.

Thank you.