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METRO

City spends R46m to extend EPWP

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THE eThekweni Municipality will spend R46 million on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for another six months, until December 31.

The municipality will extend the contracts of the beneficiaries in line with the EPWP guidelines and applicable programme provisions, after getting the go-ahead at council on Tuesday.

In a report to the council, the municipality stated that the contract extension will ensure continuity and stability of the EPWP projects and services, while the process of engaging new beneficiaries is under way.

The municipality said the participants deployed across various municipal programmes provided essential support that directly contributed to community safety, service, health, social development, environmental management, and local governance.

IFP councillor Jane Naidoo said she was concerned about the municipality having to fund a national initiative and warned against using the programme as a tool for party activism.

The EPWP plays a role in administration support (32 participants), waste management directorate (440), area-based management (44), parks and recreation (92), social sector (414 participants), community-based water agents (41), and Safer Cities (18).

The functions of these are:

- ◆ Administration support: Support across municipal EPWP operations (such as payroll, data capture, monitoring, and the Vuk'uphile Contractor Development Programme).

- ◆ Waste management directorate: Essential waste management services and operational tasks to keep communities and facilities clean.

- ◆ Area-based management: Support fault logging/follow-up, service monitoring, stakeholder coordination, by-law compliance, socio-economic programmes, and community awareness initiatives.

- ◆ Parks and recreation: Maintenance, cleaning, and upkeep of parks, sports fields, cemeteries, and other public open spaces, contributing to environmental sustainability, community well-being, improved recreational facilities, and overall enhancement of public spaces and municipal assets.

- ◆ Social sector: Support the implementation of Operation Sukuma Sakhe, youth development, military veterans' programmes, library services, clinic support services, councillors' office support, HIV/Aids awareness campaigns, paralegal referrals, community outreach initiatives, and compliance support for community creches.

- ◆ Safer Cities: Support crime prevention initiatives, community awareness campaigns, peaceful marches, and anti-substance abuse programmes. Help monitor and report crime trends, participate in "war rooms", and support law enforcement during peak seasons.

- ◆ Community-based water agents: Support water and sanitation service by reporting sewer blockages, attend war rooms, take part in Operation Good Hope and clean-up campaigns, and verify completed service delivery jobs.

The city said the discontinuation of services would negatively affect communities and place additional strain on limited municipal resources. It emphasised that these programmes serve as poverty alleviation initiatives.

The municipality stated that sufficient funding was available to cover the costs of the contract extension.



PRINCE Mpiyakhe Buthelezi accepts his appointment letter from King Misuzulu kaZwelithini on Tuesday while inkosi Zuzifa Buthelezi performs a salute. | Supplied

END OF AN ERA

King gets new spokesperson

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THE royal family has a new spokesperson: Prince Mpiyakhe Buthelezi from the KwaPhindangene Traditional Council.

Prince Buthelezi, a half-brother of the former Traditional Prime Minister, the late Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, takes over from Prince Thulani Zulu.

The king's private secretary and executive director, Arnold Ndamase released a statement saying Prince Buthelezi would be the public spokesperson for King Misuzulu kaZwelithini.

He would also be responsible for ensuring that all official communications issued on behalf of the king was accurate, dignified and consistent with the king's vision and the values of the Zulu Kingdom.

The new spokesperson acted as a regent of Buthelezi's traditional council during Mangosuthu Buthelezi's stint in Parliament and after his death in 2023 until his son, Prince Zuzifa Buthelezi, assumed his chieftaincy.

Prince Thulani, who served both King Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu and the current king as the spokesperson, shot himself in the foot after failing to control his anger against Ndamase and insulting him through a voice clip.

Prince Thulani accused Ndamase of breaching Zulu royal family protocol by taking the king to meet President Cyril Ramaphosa in Pretoria before the June 30 deadline shutdown without his knowledge and the king's Traditional Prime Minister Reverend Thulasizwe Buthelezi.

He sent an impolite voice clip to Ndamase, who listened to it in the presence of the king, who "went crazy", saying the insults were against him, as he had asked Ndamase to accompany him.

The sources said that when Prince Thulani arrived at Mashobeni Palace last week, the king threw him out, telling him not return.

Prince Thulani said he had no problem with being replaced as he served at the king's pleasure.

"The king has the right to appoint anyone to be his spokesperson without furnishing reasons, however, I stand by my words in a clip I sent to Ndamase. He broke long-standing protocol," said Prince Thulani.

Ndamase said the meeting between the king and the president was private and did not require the spokesperson and the Traditional Prime Minister, saying even if the two senior officials had been part of the trip, they were not going to the part of the meeting therefore it would have been a waste of money and their time to take them.

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