



GAUTENG
LEGISLATURE





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ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN REPORT

FOR

**CITY OF EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY –
EXTERNAL HEARING: RABA SOTHO COMMUNITY HALL**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Petitions Standing Committee (PSC), chaired by honourable adv. Ezra Letsoalo, will convene a one-day external petition hearing at Raba Sotho Community Hall, situated in Tembisa Ward 6 (Region B) at the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (CoEMM). The External Hearing will be on the 1st of September 2023.

In accordance with the petitions system, internal and external hearings are a form of escalation when authorities (after numerous extensions) do not submit reports, which are required to resolve petitions. The petitions that will be tabled during the external hearing are diverse including; police station request, formalisation of informal settlements, potholes, and clinic requests, indicating the myriad nature of petitions. The 9 petitions which will be tabled were selected from the large pool of CoEMM petitions that the PSC has in its petitions register, some from Mayfield, others from Birch Acres and some from Barcelona and Langaville.

2. AREA COMPOSITION¹

The City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality is a Category A municipality and covers an extensive area from Germiston in the west to Springs and Nigel in the east. The former administrations of the nine towns in the former East Rand were amalgamated in December 2000 into the metropolitan municipality, along with the Khayalami Metropolitan Council and the Eastern Gauteng Services Council. These were merged with 9 previously white town councils and 17 townships in the East Rand. The City of Ekurhuleni is one of the most densely populated areas in the province, and the country. The municipality has a population of 3 774 639 people. The City of Ekurhuleni derives its name from a XiTsonga word for, “place of peace” owing to its turbulent and political violence history during the transition period from Apartheid to democracy. The township of Tembisa was established in 1957 when black people were resettled from Alexandra and other areas in Edenvale, Kempton Park, Midrand,

¹ Information is based on the following sources: [Tembisa Township, Midrand | South African History Online \(sahistory.org.za\)](https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/tembisa-township-midrand), [PROFILE: CITY OF EKURHULENI \(cogta.gov.za\)](https://www.cogta.gov.za/profile/city-of-ekurhuleni) and [Ekurhuleni Ward 6 \(79700006\) - Profile data - Wazimap](https://www.wazimap.com/79700006) (accessed on the 29th of August 2023)

and Germiston, as a result of the Group Areas Act (1950). Tembisa was established on a farm originally owned by Mr. J.H.M. Meyer and Mrs M.W.Z. van Wyk. After negotiations between the Germiston Council and the owners, the land was purchased at R3, 52 per hectare with funding from the National Housing Commission and government loans. The purpose was to establish a single regional township to serve the needs of the industrial areas between Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Based on the 2011 census, the population of Tembisa Ward 6 (our host ward) is 22 258. The area has a very young population as the median age in ward 6 is 27 and 52% of the population is male. The most spoken home language in the ward is isiZulu (31%), followed by XiTsonga (23%) and Sepedi (13%). 13.9% of the population resides in informal dwellings (shacks). 29.5% of households are headed by women. The average annual household income in the area is R29 400. 43.6% of the population is employed, 26% are not economically active, 28% are unemployed and of these, 77% of them are employed in the formal sector. 49.5% completed matric or higher.

This Environmental Scan Report was conducted four working days before the external hearing to gauge general issues faced by the community of Tembisa wards: 5, 6 and 14. The researcher conducted two face-to-face interviews with councillor Francis Kgafela (Ward 5), and Councillor Abisang Patric Tleane (ward 6). The snr Information Officer conducted one telephonic interview with councillor Lindiwe Mnguni (Ward 14).

3. Key findings from the interviews:

Service Delivery	Ward 5, 6 & 14: Sewer blockages have become a continuous problem, exacerbated by the extended turn-around time in them being attended to. Unfortunately, it is because of the increasing number of backrooms as residents seek to increase their passive income. The municipality claims that their trucks are being fixed and thus, resulting in extended turn-around times for sewer and other general maintenance issues. Mover, there are not enough cherry-picker trucks, or they are not of working conditions. There is a problem of streetlights and high mast lights not bee attended to, for months on
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	<p>end. There is a criminal element to this, as circuit breakers are prized by criminals. Moreover, these lagging basic maintenance are also because of dwindling funds for general maintenance work. In the informal settlement of <i>Madalakufa</i>, there are 3 high mast light that have been malfunctioning for months, without attendance, despite them being report. In ward 14, the streetlights are not working in the whole ward, despite the cllr reporting the matter. This has been a problem since 2021. Moreover, the high mast lights are not working, and thus, increasing crime in the area. Potholes are a reality, but when reported, they are attended to, faster than sewer spillovers. There have been land-grabs which have resulted in the mushrooming of a new informal settlement called Dungaville. A municipal building was burnt down during last August (2022) protest in Tembisa.² This has had a negative affect on residents, old and young, who have to take taxis to other sections of Tembisa to pay basic municipal bills. There is a serious problem emanating from a lack of by-law enforcement, even when cllr's report by-law infringements, but they are not taken-up.</p>
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² [UPDATE | Four dead, municipal building set alight as Tembisa rocked by protests | News24](#) (accessed on the 29th of August 2023)

<p>HOUSING IN THE AREA</p>	<p>Ward 5, 6 & 14: There is a lack of transparency in the beneficiary allocation in the Clayville Mega Housing project, extensions 45, 47 and 75. The municipality is in the dark as province is not offering clarity. Officials are suspected of selling RDP houses. There are problems with title handovers, due to late estate matters, as internal family politics are playing out, with family houses being allocated to individuals who do not want to uphold them as family houses. There are issues with the issuing of “letters of authority” by the magistrate court, as individuals are bestowed with powers, which other family members do not want them to have. Inadvertently, hampering the individuals chances of benefiting from municipalities indigent policy. A catch-22 situation for child headed households.</p>
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<p>HEALTH FACILITIES</p>	<p>Ward 5, 6 & 14: There are enough clinics in the area. The issue is that the back-up generator for during loadshedding, seems to never have enough diesel and thus, limiting the clinics services. The clinic that services ward 4 & 7, has a land dispute issue. A third of the clinic is on private land, and the municipality dragged their feet to purchase the land when it became available, and now it has been purchased by a private individual. Now, a third of the clinic structure falls onto the private land, and that issue has not been resolved.</p>
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<p>Education facilities</p>	<p>Ward 5, 6 & 14: There are enough primary and high schools in the area to service the growing population, in the interim.</p>
<p>Recreational facilities</p>	<p>Ward 5, 6 & 14: There aren't any usable soccer fields and recreational parks in Tembisa. This situation needs to be addressed.</p>

<p>Unemployment</p>	<p>Ward 5, 6 & 14: Despite there being multiple employment offerings through the Premiers “Crime Prevention wardens” and the like, the community feels that the youth, born in Tembisa are not being hired, and instead, young people from Limpopo and other provinces are being prioritised, as the training instructors seem to be deliberately failing the youth from Tembisa. This trend as been noted when the previous voting station status of successful candidates are checked, and almost all, are from other provinces.</p>
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Report Limitations

This environmental scan report is based on two face-to-face interviews and one telephonic interview with ward cllr’s from wards: 5, 6 and 14. Thus, it captures sentiment of these individuals, and it is not an exhaustive analysis of the entire community.

- Key things to keep in mind which community members might raise at the External Hearing:**
- The lack of transparency in the beneficiary allocation in the Clayville Mega-housing problem, is a thorny issue that might be aired in the hearing.
 - The issues with the municipalities fleet management is having a ripple effect on basic service maintenance like street lights and hight masts, due to cheer-picker trucks not being available, and sewer blockages not been attended to timeously.
 - The population growth of Tembisa is exacerbating the sewer spillage issues.
 - The preferential employment of people outside Tembisa/Gauteng is a thorny issue, as unemployment is high.