

Budget due out today

ROMITA HANUMAN

ETHEKWINI'S budget for the 2009/10 financial year is due to be tabled before the Council's Executive Committee today (Friday).

Deputy City Manager for Treasury, Krish Kumar, said the budget aimed to balance community needs with affordability and sustainability.

He said the operating budget had increased from R17.9-billion to R18.5-billion.

This was because of price increases from bulk suppliers such as Umgeni Water and Eskom.

Increases were also necessary to meet backlogs, for repairs and maintenance, employee costs and for increased capital spending.

Kumar said: "The tabling of the budget is a statement of commitment to the people of the city and is developed within the framework of the City's overall strategy and supports its vision."

"There are many exciting opportunities for the city and its residents. While acknowledging the many challenges, the budget represents a balance between the needs of the community, affordability and sustainability.

"We are proud of the achievements we have made, but are under no illusion about the work that still needs to be done," said Kumar.

More details on the budget will be contained in a special four-page supplement, due out on 1 April.

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