



REPORT TO MAYCO

05 AUGUST 2024

1. ITEM NUMBER: **MC 30/09/24**
2. SUBJECT / ONDERWERP / ISIHLOKO

FEEDBACK ON THE INTERNATIONAL/OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF THE RSA TRIP UNDERTAKEN FROM 04 TO 10 MAY 2024 TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OFFICIAL SISTER CITY MISSION IN IZMIR, TÜRKİYE

TERUGVOERING OOR DIE INTERNASIONALE REIS ONDERNEEM VAN 4 TOT 10 MEI NA SUSTERSTADSENDING IN IZMIR, TURKYE

INGXELO ENGOHAMBO OLUYA PHESHEYA/NGAPHAYA KWEEBHODA ZOMZANTSI AFRIKA OLUTHATYATHWE UKUSUSELA NGOWE4 UKUYA KOWE10 KWEKACANZIBE 2024 LOKUTHATHA INXAXHEBA KWIPHULO ELISESIKWENI LESIXEKO ESISEBUMELWANENI E-IZMIR, TURKEY

[Q3882]

3. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FUTURE PLANNING AND RESILIENCE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE: 05 AUGUST 2024 (FPR 23/08/24)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the feedback report on the Official Sister City Mission to Izmir, Turkey undertaken by Mr Reagan Mathys from 04 to 10 May 2024, be considered and noted.

AANBEVELING

Daar word aanbeveel dat die terugvoerverslag oor die amptelike susterstadsending na Izmir, Turkye, onderneem deur Reagan Mathys van 4 tot 10 Mei 2024, oorweeg word en dat daarvan kennis geneem word.

IZINDULULO

Kundululwe ukuba makuthathelwe ingqalelo kwaye kuqwalaselwe ingxelo engohambo oluya kwiphulo elisesikweni leSixeko esiseBumelwaneni oluthatyathwe nguMnu Reagan Mathys ukususela ngowe4 ukuya kowe10kwekaCanzibe 2024.



REPORT TO: CITY MANAGER

**TO BE REFERRED BY THE OFFICIAL TO MAYCO VIA THE RELEVANT FUTURE
PLANNING AND RESILIENCE SECTION 79 COMMITTEE [AFTER
CONSIDERATION BY CITY MANAGER]**

1. ITEM NUMBER

2. SUBJECT

**FEEDBACK ON THE INTERNATIONAL/OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF THE
RSA TRIP UNDERTAKEN FROM 04 TO 10 MAY 2024 TO PARTICIPATE IN
AN OFFICIAL SISTER CITY MISSION IN IZMIR, TÜRKIYE**

ONDERWERP

**TERUGVOERING OOR DIE INTERNASIONALE REIS ONDERNEEM VAN 4
TOT 10 MEI 2024 OM DEEL TE NEEM AAN 'N AMPTELIKE
SUSTERSTADSENDING IN IZMIR, TURKYE**

ISIHLOKO

**INGXELO ENGOHAMBO OLUYA PHESHEYA/NGAPHAYA KWEEBHODA
ZOMZANTSI AFRIKA OLUTHATYATHWE UKUSUSELA NGOWE4 UKUYA
KOWE10 KWEKACANZIBE 2024 LOKUTHATHA INXAXHEBA KWIPHULO
ELISESIKWENI LESIXEKO ESISEBUMELWANENI E-IZMIR, TURKEY**

Q3882

3. EVENT SUMMARY

| EVENT DETAILS | |
|------------------------|--|
| CONFERENCE/SEMINAR | |
| OTHER | <i>Official Sister City Mission to the City of Izmir</i> |
| DATE | <i>04 - 10 May 2024</i> |
| VENUE | Various |
| TOTAL COST TO THE CITY | <i>R70 086.55</i> |
| CITY | Izmir |
| COUNTRY | TÜRKIYE |

ATTENDEE DETAILS

| NAME AND SURNAME | DESIGNATION |
|------------------|---|
| Reagan Mathys | SENIOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICER |
| | |
| | |

PROVIDE SUMMARY OF HOST ORGANISATION / CITY

Izmir is the third most populous city in Türkiye with a Metropolitan population of approximately five million people. The city is recognised as the second largest commercial centre in Türkiye, and is responsible for almost 10 percent of Türkiye's total industrial production. Pricewaterhousecoopers forecasted that by 2025, Izmir will be one of the 60 richest cities in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The City's Mayor is Dr. Cemil Tugay, and was elected in April 2024.

The City of Izmir is an important foreign trade city of Türkiye with its free zones, industrial zones and maritime transportation opportunities, Izmir also has a significant qualified labour force, and developed infrastructure. its most prominent economic sectors and production outputs include motor vehicles/ automotive components, chemicals, industrial machinery & equipment, food and beverage production, textile products, renewable energy, tourism, and information & communications technology. it is also a prominent tourism centre with its environment, historical assets, cultural heritage and natural beauties. agriculture-based industries are also considerably developed.

Since sister city relations was initiated in 2014, Cape Town and Izmir have engaged in several activities, exchanges, and mutually beneficial interactions. The most recent of these include Ald James Vos embarking on a mission to Izmir in both 2022 and 2023 to explore the potential and opportunities to enhance Halal Tourism between the two cities.

4. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Sister City Mission to Izmir was for the City Manager (CM), as the Head of the City Administration to engage with the City of Izmir's Senior Leadership and Administration. In so doing, the CM aimed to enhance existing relations by re-invigorating and aligning strategic priorities to lay a solid foundation for further information and best practice technical exchanges moving forward. Strategic priority alignment should ideally include a wide variety of service delivery departments that speak to shared governance challenges, and opportunities that ultimately aim to impact and enhance service delivery efforts.

5. OUTCOMES

- Engage with Senior Leadership within the City of Izmir in order to re-invigorate and align strategic priorities.
- Gain Insights and Best Practices from the City of Izmir's Parks and Gardens, as well as Information Systems and Technology (IS&T) Departments.

John
Laing
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6. ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Continued implementation of the Sister City Agreement [Responsible: International Relations Unit].
- Host Izmir delegations in future as applicable [Responsible: International Relations Unit].
- Obtain information from Izmir as related to Parks and Gardens best practices [Responsible: International Relations Unit].
- Obtain information from Izmir as related to their Information Systems Applications, and more specifically, as related to Disaster Management preparedness [Responsible: International Relations Unit].
- Promote Izmir's Tourism Promotion Page on the Invest Cape Town webpage [Responsible: Economic Development and Investment Department].

7. IMPLICATIONS

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 7.1 Constitutional and Policy Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.2 Environmental implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.3 Financial Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.4 Legal Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.5 Staff Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.6 Risk Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.7 <u>POPIA Compliance</u> | | |

- ☒ It is confirmed that this report has been checked and considered for POPIA Compliance.

NOTE: POPIA Section MUST be completed otherwise the report will be returned to the author for revision.

Contact your Directorate POPIA Stewards should you require assistance.

The City has a contract in place with XL Embassy Travel for the safe-keeping of Traveller's personal information as required by the POPI Act.

8. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the feedback report on the Official Sister City Mission to Izmir, Turkey undertaken by Mr Reagan Mathys from 04 to 10 May 2024, **be considered and noted.**

AANBEVELING

Daar word aanbeveel dat die terugvoerverslag oor die amptelike susterstadsending na Izmir, Turkye, onderneem deur Reagan Mathys van 4 tot 10 Mei 2024, oorweeg word en dat daarvan kennis geneem word.

IZINDULULO

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9. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Meeting with the Mayor and Secretary General of Izmir

The City Manager (CM) met with the Mayor of Izmir, Dr Cemil Tugay (CT), and Secretary General (i.e. City Manager Equivalent), Mr Barış Karcı (BK). CM started the discussion by thanking the Mayor and Secretary General for making time to meet with him while in Izmir on a Sister City Mission, and also congratulating the Mayor on his recent election victory and appointment as Mayor. He explained that his visit is thus an opportunity for Cape Town and Izmir to re-invigorate relations, while identifying shared strategic priorities. CM commented that both cities have similar populations of approximately five million people, which present an opportunity to exchange information, and best practices across service delivery portfolios. Importantly, CM noted that he wants to strengthen administrative cooperation to enhance service delivery, and not just interfacing at the political level.

CM explained that Cape Town has unique challenges, and is always ready to learn from other cities. For example, Cape Town is faced with growing urbanisation and in-migration, which puts pressure on the City's infrastructure. Furthermore, Cape Town is faced with a growing need to provide Housing, while also having to plan for, and service a growing number of informal settlements. In terms of Disaster Management, Cape Town also needs to improve its preparedness when it comes to, for example, flooding.

The CT thanked CM for his well wishes during his term of office, and responded that he is happy with CM's remarks. He also believes that cooperating in areas of shared strategic priority sharing is a good starting point. He explained that the need to create more Housing is also a priority for Izmir, increasing employment opportunities

through the promotion of agriculture and tourism, as well as making the City more Resilient, especially in the areas of Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) are growing priorities for his administration. CM responded that the effects of Climate Change is also felt in Cape Town, with Resilience being an important element of planning. In addition, attracting tourists are also important for Cape Town's economy, which reinforces the notion that infrastructure needs to be maintained and expanded for the City to be attractive to tourists.

CM commented that based on this meeting it is clear that there are important opportunities to strengthen cooperation in terms of tourism promotion, cultural exchange, urban agriculture, human settlements, resilience, infrastructure development and possibly identifying additional areas for in-person technical exchanges in the future. CT responded positively, and noted that he is happy that CM took the time to visit Izmir on an Official Sister City Mission, and is open to cooperation in all areas that CM identified, and new emerging ones. CT also commented that he would like to visit Cape Town during his term of office, and would like to extend an invitation for the Executive Mayor of Cape Town to come to Izmir, in order to host him. CM reciprocated the invitation, and thanked the Mayor for his hospitality, and his offices support with this Sister City Mission.

Meeting with Head of Parks and Gardens Department

The CM met with the Parks and Gardens Department in the City of Izmir. The attendees of the meeting from the City of Izmir is detailed below:

- Mete Güzelocak: Head of Park and Gardens Department (MG)
- Sinan Baydar: Manager of Kültürpark Directorate (SB)
- Salih Yeşilbaş: Landscape Architect (Directorate of Kültürpark) (SY)
- Sergen Satır: Interpreter (Directorate of Foreign Relations)

The meeting started with MG, and his team providing a comprehensive overview of Kültürpark, which is the premier Park and Recreation facility in Izmir. The facility was opened in 1936, and has since its opening been regarded as the very Centre of the City of Izmir. The area has over 200 Botanical and 720 Flower species. The facility is a place where culture and parks come together, and is a historically protected site with 5000 daily visitors. Kültürpark has six entry points, with each gate / opening having a historical and special meaning. For example, each gate opens to a different part of the City, such as a residential neighbourhood, business district, or government district. The facility also has a 2-kilometer running track, with the park open 24 hours a day. CM enquired if members of the public pay to access the facility, with MG responding that the park is viewed as a multicultural space where events from specific communities can take place in the space, free of charge. The only space which is privatised in Kültürpark is the 'Concert Hall', which hosts paid events. In addition, the annual Izmir International Fair is an event where people pay for their stalls. The Major Annual Event that is hosted in Kültürpark is the Parks and International Fair, which is an annual event that prioritises the role of culture, and where artists come to perform.

CM enquired if there are any other parks and recreation facilities around Izmir, besides Kültürpark. MG responded that they have District Parks, Living Parks,

Neighbourhood Parks and the massive Kordon Park, which is a 20 kilometre seaside park. The Living Park concept, also referred to as 'Olivolo', is a green space that is connected to the sea. For example, they have a 200 Hectare site with only two to three Hectare having facilities on it, the idea is to give people the opportunity to experience nature. MG further explained that other critical aspects associated with the various kinds of parks, is implementing the proper landscaping for the space, water management by planting indigenous plant species to save water, plus utilising water recycling, and rainwater to the ground. In terms of water management, they are looking at endemic plants, and moving away from grass and rather using local ground cover. They also have smart parks, which increasingly utilises digitalisation, where watering is automated to improve efficiency of watering, and general resource use, while also having points for phones to charge, and having Wifi areas. MG also noted that due to Turkey being in an Earthquake hotspot area, parks serve as an important safe space for people to gather during emergencies – this is why smart parks are growing in priority for the City.

CM enquired if the City of Izmir experiences challenges with vandalism in Kültürpark. The response was that they do have instances, but it is not necessarily a common occurrence, as there is heavy punishment for the damage of state property. They also noted that there is a police station in Kültürpark, including motorcycle police, and municipal police, with private security as well. CM enquired if these other parks have the same kind of security and access control as Kültürpark. MG noted that Kültürpark is a controlled and monitored space, whereas the other parks are not. However, some of them do have cameras for monitoring, but that is where joint work with other departments such as law enforcement, and Information Systems are important from an infrastructure and enforcement perspective. To this end, they are setting up more cameras in hotspot areas, but limited by the availability of infrastructure underground (IT services).

CM enquired if all parks are free to use. GM noted that the City of Izmir has no commercial plans for any parks, citizens use them for free, and will always serve that purpose, except for the 10% of times where paid concerts are hosted in parks. In terms of Kültürpark, Ataturk gave the presidential order for Kültürpark to be built, so it is of national importance. The Municipality therefore covers the cost due to this mandate from national government. He did note that perhaps someday in the future some element of cost will be applied, but that is very far away.

CM thanked GM for the insightful presentation, that provided a clear overall picture of Parks and Gardens in Izmir. CM explained that SA does not have well defined park and recreation areas, due largely to the unique historical past that created great disparity in its provision across communities. This makes it challenging to run and maintain in terms of the high costs associated with their maintenance for a municipality, coupled with very little community ownership of the facilities. This creates a situation where parks are vandalised, and in cases, infrastructure is removed, due in some part because of metal being expensive. CM therefore contextualized and explained that it is a challenge to maintain all the parks that the City of Cape Town has within its portfolio. SB suggested that Cape Town consider using plastic equipment in parks to limit vandalism due to metal theft. MG commented that facilities in Izmir suffer more from breakage, but not stealing, here he notes that cameras also help to serve as deterrent. He also noted that he is familiar with issues that Cape Town faces, and understands the context.

CM once again thanked GM for the insightful presentation, and noted that he would encourage the Recreation and Parks Department in Cape Town to visit Izmir, especially in September, when the International Fair is hosted. GM noted that his Department will send all the relevant details of the Parks and Gardens Department to the City of Cape Town, and his happy to engage further on any areas identified.

On a side note, GM commented that his brother lived in Cape Town for six months and encouraged him to visit the City. CM noted that Cape Town is a beautiful City, and encourages everyone to come and visit.

Meeting with Head of Information Systems and Technology

The CM met with the Information Systems Technology (IS&T) Department in the City of Izmir. The attendees of the meeting from the City of Izmir is detailed below:

- Ümit Yalçın: Head of Information Technologies Department (UY)
- Mehmet Erenoğlu: Manager of Geographic Information Systems Directorate
- İbrahimcan Gilgil: Manager of Software Directorate and Manager of Integrated Systems Directorate
- Serhat Arda: Manager of Information Technologies Directorate and Manager of Information Network Directorate
- Emrah Asal: Information Technologies Project Director
- Bahar Erkul Konuk: Information Technologies Project Director
- Semin Solak: Manager of Foreign Relations Directorate
- Gökçe Başkaya: Head of Foreign Relations and Tourism Department
- Müge Akçiçek: Interpreter (Directorate of Foreign Relations)

UY and his team proceeded to provide a consolidated overview of the City of Izmir's shared web, and application based IS&T resources that the City of Izmir have developed. Below is an overview of these resources that include:

- Emergency Izmir: which is an application that enables quick response to disasters such as earthquakes.
- Pako: which is an application that is focused on citizens registering street animals such as dogs and cats.
- Izmir Doga Atlasi: which is an application that is focused on nature and the environment in Izmir, which specifically details the diversity of plant life across the City.
- Smart TM Projesi: which is an application developed in conjunction with Izmir's Department of Climate Change and Izmir Development Agency. This application aims to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency.

- **Traffic Management:** which is an application that assists with the management of traffic related areas.
- **Yazilim Mudurlugu:** This is an application that focusses on Municipal Hospitals, and assists citizens to make appointments for hospital visits.
- **Acil Durum Bilgi Sistemi:** This is an early warning emergency information application, which provides citizens with direct information via sms on the possibility of floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters which may occur.
- **Biz Izmir:** This is the largest digital platform on the City of Izmir's website, and helps with all areas related to establishing businesses in the City.
- **Traffic Hizmetleri Projesi:** This is another traffic management application that provides information regarding where road works are taking place across the City.
- **Izmir Tarimi:** which is an application focused on agriculture. In particular, the application links producers with potential customers in Izmir, and also serves as a marketing platform for produce, as well as a management platform that can provide data on plant production.
- **Karbon Haritasi:** This is a Carbon Map, which was developed in conjunction with the Department of Climate Change. This map helps to demonstrate how much Carbon is used in specific areas, with this information used to inform where to plant more trees in the City.
- **Visit Izmir Website:** This website is solely dedicated to providing information to tourists that want to visit Izmir. The website is available in three languages including English, covering 13 districts across the City of Izmir, and providing information on all related events and concerts that will take part in the City.

UY briefly commented on the City of Izmir's Technology Network that forms the backbone of their IT infrastructure, which is called Lorawan. His team noted that they would be happy to share information, and/ or engage in greater detail in further meetings in terms of technology networks. UY also mentioned the IzmirNet project, which is the City of Izmir's 500-kilometre fibre optic network. The City of Izmir views this as an essential communication infrastructure that is used on busses, parks, and other municipal provided services and sites. UY explained that the City of Izmir is the first municipal IT Department in Turkey to utilise Algorithms on their CCTV Camera network. The advantage of the algorithm is that it has assisted to function as an early warning system for identifying Fires around the City.

CM thanked UY and his entire supporting management team for the comprehensive overview and input on the IS&T Environment in the City of Izmir. He commented that it is important to embark on these sister city technical engagements, in order to be exposed to how different cities IS&T platforms, and systems operate. This comment was made against the backdrop that Cape Town would soon be embarking on new projects to replace or enhance legacy systems. CM noted that he shall take all the learnings to his IS&T Department and Officials in Cape Town, with a view to

investigate the possibility of them visiting the City of Izmir. CM noted in particular, that the web resources and applications related to Disaster Management is important, and something that the City can learn from to assist in their own disaster management preparedness. He also commented positively on the city of Izmir's website, that promotes events and aspects that are not directly part of the City Administration; so the website does not only cover what the Municipality is doing, but other areas outside of the municipality as well.

10. ANNEXURES

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT:

| | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| DATE | | | |
| NAME | Reagan Mathys | CONTACT NUMBER | 021 444 9348 |
| E-MAIL ADDRESS | ReaganBernard.Mathys@capetown.gov.za | | |
| DIRECTORATE | FP&R | FILE REF No | |
| SIGNATURE : | Reagan Mathys <small>Digitally signed by Reagan Mathys Date: 2024.05.23 14:29:48 +02'00'</small> | | |

MANAGER: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COMMENT:

DR. DENVER VAN SCHALKWYK

Implementation of actions to be monitored until completion.

SIGNATURE: **Denver Van Schalkwyk**
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: FP&R

COMMENT:

[MR GARETH MORGAN]

Please provide feedback to FPR PC on action by end of 2024

The ED's signature represents support for report content and confirms POPIA compliance.

SIGNATURE:

NAME: **Gareth Morgan**
Digitally signed by Gareth Morgan
Date: 2024.05.23 15:44:27 +02'00'

John Laing
Smale

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John Laing Smale
Date: 2024.05.28
15:38:43 +02'00'

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

☐ REPORT COMPLIANT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL'S DELEGATIONS, POLICIES, BY-LAWS AND ALL LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION.

☐ NON-COMPLIANT

COMMENT:

NAME

TEL

DATE

Certified as legally compliant based on the contents of the report.



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CITY MANAGER

☒ NOTED

☒ REFER TO THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE VIA THE RELEVANT SECTION 79 COMMITTEE

DATE

COMMENT: