

ZONEBEAT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE *east london idz*

IN THIS EDITION...

PAGE

- 2.** ELIDZ NAMED LEADING ECO-PARK IN THE WORLD BY UNIDO
- 3.** ELIDZ PIONEERING EXCELLENCE THROUGH CONTINUOUSLY ALIGNING PROCESSES WITH ISO STANDARDS
- 4.** ELIDZ PIONEERS THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE
- 6.** ELIDZ CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS...
- 7.** COLLABORATIVE BACK-TO-SCHOOL INITIATIVE AT VUKUHAMBE SPECIAL SCHOOL
- 8.** ELIDZ CONTINUES TO STRIVE IN INITIATING IMPACTFUL CSI INITIATIVES



east london idz
business streamlined

ELIDZ NAMED LEADING ECO-PARK IN THE WORLD BY UNIDO

The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) has proven to be at the forefront of promoting sustainability and has been named the leading eco-park in the world. The esteemed recognition, awarded by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation's (UNIDO) Global Eco-Industrial Park Programme (GEIPP), highlights the ELIDZ's unparalleled commitment to protecting the environment.

The ELIDZ, which is considered a model for eco-industrial parks not only in South Africa but worldwide, is the epitome of green innovation and sustainable development.

Through its participation in the GEIPP, the ELIDZ is one of the pilot parks receiving technical assistance and is deemed as one of the highest performing eco-industrial parks and ELIDZ is committed to continuous improvement of processes to transform fully into an eco-industrial park meeting international standards.

"This acknowledgement fuels our determination to continuously improve and strive to exceed compliance requirements by adopting best practices and industry standards. Our goal is to reduce carbon emissions, minimise waste generation and increase the use of renewable energy sources," Dr Chris Ettmayr, Renewable Energy & ICT Manager remarks.

Recognising the significance of sustainability and environmental stewardship, ELIDZ embraces innovative practices and adheres to sustainability standards to maximise industrial efficiency. Eco-Industrial parks are not just environmentally friendly, they involve balancing three key pillars, environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

The ELIDZ is a greenfield development transforming over 400 hectares of prime land into a world-class industrial location that attracts globally competitive manufactures. The ELIDZ's significant transition

to renewable energy makes it an attractive destination for investors seeking to capitalise on the growing demand for renewable energy solutions.

Through unwavering efforts, the ELIDZ is dedicated to evolving and transforming into a fully developed eco-industrial park that recognises that sustainability is a journey rather than destination and meets the international standards. The ELIDZ continuously engages with various stakeholders to foster partnerships and ensure sustainability remains at the forefront of its operations.

The ELIDZ is dedicated to advancing its mission of eco-industrial growth, steadfastly paving the way for a sustainable future. Through ongoing initiatives and collaborations, the ELIDZ actively promotes environmentally responsible practices, innovation in green technologies, and the integration of sustainability principles into every facet of its operations. By prioritising sustainable development, the ELIDZ aims to not only bolster economic prosperity but also to safeguard the environment and enhance the well-being of surrounding communities for generations to come.

...ELIDZ embraces innovative practices and adheres to sustainability standards to maximise industrial efficiency.



ELIDZ PIONEERING EXCELLENCE THROUGH CONTINUOUSLY ALIGNING PROCESSES WITH ISO STANDARDS



The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) has once again demonstrated a steadfast commitment to excellence in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) management, culminating in its recent achievement of ISO certification.

The ELIDZ has been honoured with three International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certificates for ICT standards: ISO 27001, ISO 27017, and ISO 27018, accompanied by an official Audit Report confirming its ICT ISO certification. Following a comprehensive recertification process, the ELIDZ has successfully retained its ISO 27001 certification for six consecutive years.

This achievement underscores the ELIDZ's ongoing commitment to meeting and surpassing the stringent standards outlined by the certification. ISO 27001 is an internationally recognised standard that centres on information security, providing specifications for an effective Information Security Management System (ISMS). By maintaining ISO 27001 certification, the ELIDZ not only mitigates the risk of costly security breaches but also demonstrates to stakeholders its proactive approach to safeguarding data against potential threats.

The recently obtained certifications, ISO 27017 and ISO 27018, establish specifications for managing data privacy within a cloud computing environment as part of the Information Security Management System (ISMS). ISO 27017 aids in minimising the risk of data breaches in cloud computing, while ISO 27018 enhances customer trust by affirming ELIDZ's dedication to information security. Additionally, these certifications facilitate internal auditing for compliance with responsibilities related to the protection of personal data.

After undergoing a thorough ISO certification audit conducted by an accredited independent ISO Auditor, the ELIDZ demonstrates its commitment to upholding the highest standards of quality, security, and performance. This comprehensive effort aims to mitigate the risk of costly security breaches, effectively manage data privacy within a

cloud computing environment, and align ELIDZ's ICT management systems with international standards. It represents a significant step towards establishing a framework for excellence in ICT governance, risk management, and business continuity.

"At the ELIDZ, we believe in unlocking potential, fostering innovation, and driving economic transformation. Our commitment is not just to meet standards, but to set them – shaping a future where excellence is the norm," said Mr Simphiwe Kondlo, Chief Executive Officer at the ELIDZ.

"Obtaining ISO certification is not just a milestone for the ELIDZ, it is a testament to our unwavering dedication to quality, security, and performance. It reaffirms our commitment to excellence and underscores our readiness to meet the highest international standards," remarked Mr Kondlo.

"ISO certification is more than just a validation of our processes; it is a reflection of our commitment to continuous improvement and customer satisfaction. At the ELIDZ, it is not just about achieving certification; it is about ensuring that every aspect of our operations adheres to the highest standards," emphasised Mr Kondlo.

Tirelessly, the ELIDZ is reviewing and maintaining its management systems as well as improving where necessary. Non-conformances identified by the auditor are promptly and effectively addressed through our corrective action system. This proactive approach ensures regulatory compliance and reassures our stakeholders of ELIDZ's unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards. By addressing these issues, we are not only shaping the future of ICT in the Eastern Cape but also setting a benchmark for excellence that extends beyond our region.

ELIDZ PIONEERS THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) is leading the way in a journey into the digital landscape and is experiencing a high demand for additional data centre capacity from both internal and external clients. With the fast-evolving digital landscape, the ELIDZ is at the forefront of investing in cutting-edge technology and embracing innovation.

A home to thriving digitally connected clients, the ELIDZ's Data Centre footprint is expanding to support this demand with the goal of attracting further ICT investment and ecosystem partners to the province.

"We are committed to ensuring that we meet these demands effectively while maintaining the highest standards of reliability, security and performance," said Mzuyanda Nontshinga, Manager: ICT.

A comprehensive feasibility study had been conducted to assess the current and projected demand for data centre services. The new state-of-the-art Tier 3 data centre facility is in the final stages of completion and will be further expanded in a phased approach to meet client demand. The significance of data hosting has not gone unnoticed within the Eastern Cape, where the ELIDZ stands ready to meet the growing demand for disaster recovery and other ICT related offerings.

"Our efforts to expand data centre capacity align with our vision of becoming a hub for digital innovation and economic growth. By investing in advanced infrastructure and technology, we are positioning the ELIDZ as a leader in the digital economy, attracting investment and fostering entrepreneurship in the region," Nontshinga summing up his remarks.

The ELIDZ is dedicated to embracing the emerging opportunities and strengthening its position as a premier destination in the province for data and data centre services. The ELIDZ is accredited for the following recognised ICT related internationally standards:

- **ISO 27001: 2013 - Information Security Management Standard (ISMS)**
- **ISO 27017: 2015 - Standard for managing Information in the cloud.**
- **ISO 27018: 2019 - Standard for managing Personal Data in the Cloud.**

Additionally, the ELIDZ as an organisation is accredited for various international standards such as health and safety standards, which guides health and safety-related operations. These standards play a crucial role in ensuring that the ELIDZ maintains high standards of occupational health and safety within the zone.

- **ISO 45001: 2018 - Standard for Occupational Health and Safety Management System: OH & S**
- **ISO 14001: 2015 - Standard for Environmental Management System: EMS**
- **ISO 9001: 2015 - Standard for Quality Management System: QMS**



These accreditations demonstrate the ELIDZ unwavering commitment to excellence, ensuring the highest levels of security, safety, environmental responsibility, and quality across its operations.

With access to state-of-the-art, reliable utilities and advanced telecommunications networks, our clients within the ELIDZ enjoy the following benefits:

- **Achieving high electricity supply uptime with a 40 MW grid supply, and the potential incorporation of energy storage systems and other sustainable energy solutions to mitigate grid supply risks and enhance redundancy.**
- **Water supply systems tailored to accommodate diverse industries.**
- **Secure facility located within a highly protected industrial zone.**
- **Well-maintained premises and effectively managed utilities and amenities.**
- **Customised Data Centre Service Offerings.**
- **Diverse range of shared services.**

As part of the expansion, the ELIDZ has invested in a blown fibre ring that links its current data centre facility to clients and external Fibre Network Operators (FNOs) within the ELIDZ. FNOs are encouraged to connect with the ELIDZ data centre using existing fibre ducting, reducing the FNOs costs to connect. By investing in a blown fibre ring, the ELIDZ has placed a high priority on connectivity, establishing a link between its data centre facilities and clients as well as external FNOs within the area.

This strategic investment guarantees smooth and dependable connectivity for businesses within the ELIDZ, enhancing data transmission speed and communication capabilities. With a robust connectivity infrastructure in place, the ELIDZ clients can effectively expand their operations and seize future growth opportunities. Whether they are expanding within the Zone or connecting to external networks, businesses can confidently pursue their strategies, knowing that they have dependable and adaptable solutions at their disposal.

The ELIDZ's commitment to pioneering the digital landscape is evident in its relentless pursuit of excellence and its dedication to driving innovation across industries. As technology continues to evolve, the ELIDZ remains a trusted partner for businesses looking to thrive in the digital age.

DISCOVER ELIDZ'S COMPREHENSIVE ICT SERVICES **TAILORED SOLUTIONS FOR ENHANCED EFFICIENCY AND GROWTH.**



Welcome to the world of the ELIDZ, a renowned symbol of business excellence. We are delighted to share the news of our extended service offerings, specially crafted to cater for your evolving information and communication technology (ICT) requirements. Introducing our cutting-edge range of comprehensive ICT services, meticulously designed to drive growth and empower your business.

Immerse yourself in our tailored solutions, characterised by their diversity, flexibility, and reliability. At the ELIDZ, we understand that each business is unique, which is why our services are tailored to meet your specific needs. By leveraging our solutions, you can optimise operational efficiency, enhance productivity, and elevate your overall business performance.

Discover the ELIDZ advantage today and witness how our bespoke ICT services revolutionize the way you do business. Together, let's unlock new possibilities and propel your success to unprecedented heights.

ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS WITH OUR SERVICE EXCELLENCE – **FOCUSED ICT SOLUTIONS:**



• **Infrastructure Solutions:** We provide end-to-end infrastructure solutions, including network design and implementation, server and storage management, virtualisation, and cloud integration. Let us optimise your ICT infrastructure to ensure seamless connectivity and enhanced data security.



• **BaaS & DRaaS:** Protecting your valuable data and assets is paramount. Our team has deployed the latest technologies and industry best practices to safeguard your systems against disaster or data loss. We've got your off-site backup and disaster recovery compliance needs covered.



• **Software Development:** Our developers specialise in creating customised software solutions tailored to your unique business requirements. From web and mobile applications to enterprise systems and database management, we deliver reliable and scalable solutions that drive your digital transformation.



• **IT Support and Managed Services:** Our dedicated support team provides proactive IT maintenance, and troubleshooting, which ensures smooth operations and minimised downtime. With our managed services, you can focus on your core business while we take care of your ICT needs.

WE ALSO OFFER THE FOLLOWING TAILORED ICT SERVICES:

- *Telephony & Internet Services*
- *Fibre Connectivity*
- *Data Centre Colocation*
- *Cloud Services and*
- *Business Continuity*

STAY CONNECTED IN A GLOBAL MARKET AND EMPOWER YOUR BUSINESS BY CHOOSING THE ELIDZ AS YOUR TRUSTED ICT PARTNER. **WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:**

- *Industry-leading expertise and proven track record.*
- *Tailored solutions that align with your business goals.*
- *Reliable and secure ICT infrastructure.*
- *Responsive support and timely assistance.*
- *Cost-effective and scalable solutions.*

Seize the opportunity to propel your business forward with the ELIDZ's cutting-edge ICT Service. Contact us now to explore customised solutions that cater to your unique requirements. For a comprehensive overview of our ICT services, visit our website or scan the QR code below. **Don't wait, take the first step towards transforming your business today!**



**Together, let's unlock the full potential of your
business with the ELIDZ's ICT services.
Experience excellence that drives success!**

ELIDZ CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES

The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) recently had the honour of hosting a special working visit from Deputy Minister for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Ms Pinky Kekana. This significant visit aimed to strengthen the relationship between the esteemed Office of the Deputy Minister and the ELIDZ and to explore opportunities for collaboration and deepen engagement in driving economic growth.

Speaking during the visit, BCMM, Executive Mayor, Ms Princess Faku recognised the ELIDZ as a catalyst for the economic advancement of both Buffalo City and the broader Eastern Cape region.

"The Buffalo City Metro acknowledges and appreciates the significant contribution of the East London IDZ in attracting investment to our city. Currently, there are over 41 operational investors in the ELIDZ across various sectors. This signifies ELIDZ commitment in driving economic growth," said Ms Faku.

"In addition, the allocation of budget for the expansion of the Port of East London, underscores our commitment to enhancing logistical infrastructure, which is integral to facilitating trade and investment," she said.

Ms Faku said the visit by the deputy minister aligns perfectly with the city's focus on supporting and uplifting small businesses, with the ELIDZ playing a crucial role in enterprise development.

Summing-up her remarks, Ms Faku reiterated that the Metro is determined to create a conducive environment and foster inclusivity and equitable growth.

"With ELIDZ training programmes, I stand as a testament to their commitment to nurturing potential and paving the path to success. Today, as the Director of Memento Holdings, I am a proud beneficiary of ELIDZ's invaluable support," said Asanda Ntswayi-Ntswayi.

The esteemed delegation, including the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM), Executive Mayor Ms Princess Faku, embraced the visit wholeheartedly. During the visit, the delegation was taken on a tour of the Zone, with notable highlights including the ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP), recognised for its pivotal role in fostering enterprise development and empowering youth.

In a briefing session, the ELIDZ Chief Executive Officer, Mr Simphiwe Kondlo highlighted key challenges requiring attention, notably load shedding, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) incentives, and the expansion of the Zone.

These challenges underscored the importance of collaborative efforts between government and industry stakeholders to overcome obstacles and create an enabling environment for economic development.

Mr Kondlo emphasised the need for swift approval processes to facilitate expansion into the Ntabozuko area and highlighted plans for establishing energy generation sources such as PV rooftop solar.

Reflecting on the CEO's remarks, the Deputy Minister, Ms Pinky Kekana affirmed the ELIDZ as a strategic precinct with the potential to complement the government's efforts toward job creation and poverty alleviation. As the ELIDZ anticipates expansion, partnerships with all the key role-players will be crucial for driving sustainable development and inclusive growth. *"By working together, we can overcome the pertaining socio-economic development issues."* said Ms Kekana.

Ms Kekana reiterated that the proposed expansion would not only address socio-economic challenges but also create more job opportunities, aligning with broader development objectives.





COLLABORATIVE BACK-TO-SCHOOL INITIATIVE AT VUKUHAMBE SPECIAL SCHOOL

In a remarkable display of dedication to education, the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) has joined hands with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) along with other key stakeholders to lead a Back-to-School initiative at Vukuhambe Special School.

Led by the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Pinky Kekana, this back-to-school programme is aimed at monitoring the state of readiness at the special school and swiftly implement rapid interventions to address challenges that could affect teaching and learning.

The collaborative back-to-school initiative is in alignment with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) oversight monitoring of special schools in the Eastern Cape. Its objective is to assess and verify the transformation of services, as well as to ensure that special schools in all provinces receive adequate support to deliver quality education in accordance with the Department of Education's standards.

In a heartening commitment to education, the ELIDZ responded to the call by generously donating hostel equipment and sport equipment, emphasizing the pivotal role of education as a catalyst for socio-economic development.

A substantial part of the initiative involved providing essential learning materials, key role-players namely the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) donated essentials such as textbooks, stationery, and specialised educational tools tailored to learners needs.

Deputy Minister (DM) Pinky Kekana, in outlining the purpose of the programme, emphasized the significance of the collaborative effort.

"This is not only about addressing immediate needs but a commitment to fostering lasting change in the lives of learners with special needs. We will continue to mobilize resources to improve our schools, and

we welcome other role-players to come forward and join hands with us. Socio-economic development is achieved when stakeholders and corporation's unit for the greater good. Let's strive to make a tangible impact on education" said DM Pinky Kekana.

This collaborative initiative serves as a testament to the positive change achievable when diverse stakeholders join forces for a common cause.

"We are here at the school as part of our Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme, with a dedicated focus on education. Recognising the importance of the call for support, we deemed it essential to answer that call and extend assistance. As the ELIDZ, we are firmly committed to providing ongoing support to the school and playing a role in its development. Education is the cornerstone of progress, and at the ELIDZ we view it as our responsibility to contribute to its advancement," remarked Simphiwe Kondlo, Chief Executive Officer of ELIDZ.

A profoundly grateful school principal of Vukuhambe, Mr. Wezile Thole, expressed words of gratitude for the unwavering support extended by the various stakeholders.

"Your presence and ongoing support signify not only a commitment to our school but also a shared vision for the holistic development of our learners. Together, we are building a brighter and more inclusive future for all," expressed Mr Thole.



ELIDZ CONTINUES TO STRIVE IN INITIATING IMPACTFUL CSI INITIATIVES

In our ongoing commitment to fostering positive change and uplifting communities, the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) has initiated Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives aimed at making a sustainable impact on the lives of South Africans.

The ELIDZ has reached out to various formations, including:

Vukuhambe Special School:

In fulfillment of the commitments made by the ELIDZ during the Back-to-School visit by the Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana in collaboration with the ELIDZ, the Vukuhambe Special School in Mdantsane, East London, has received essential equipment for renovating their facilities.

This initiative underscores our dedication to giving back to the community and supporting education. We believe that by investing in schools like Vukuhambe, we are investing in the future of our community and empowering the next generation to thrive.

Westbank Sport Council:

In a bid to foster community development and uplift the youth, the ELIDZ donated sports equipment valued at R50 000.00 to the Westbank Sport Council. This initiative emphasizes the ELIDZ's commitment and dedication to Corporate Social Investment (CSI). The ELIDZ cultivates a generation of active, engaged, and socially responsible young people who are better equipped to face life's challenges.

Teelo Foundation:

The ELIDZ CSI Committee headed to Mpongo Village, located in Tsholomnqa within the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM), for the handover of school uniforms consisting of jerseys, shirts, and shoes, amongst other items, as part of their back-to-school programme. This joint effort with Teelo Foundation aims to identify and support the most disadvantaged children, ensuring that they have the essential items needed to start their academic year. This humanitarian gesture was warmly received with gratitude by the beneficiaries of the programme.



ELIDZ HOSTS OPEN DAY FOR THE CONFERENCE CENTRE

Earlier this month, the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) welcomed current and potential investors to their Conference Centre for an Open Day, where the guests were treated to an immersive, hands-on experience of the facility.

The event aimed to showcase the conference centre's service offering and resources, allowing attendees to explore this state-of-the-art centre firsthand.

Accommodating over 200 guests, and the flexibility to adjust its offerings to satisfy consumer needs, the facility stands as a prime destination for a variety of events. From corporate meetings to commercial events, the centre offers services of good quality while its consumer-centric approach ensures the best experience for each guest.

During an interactive engagement session, Manager: Investor Support Services, Ms Nonkumbuzo Mdintsi outlined the key services and various opportunities tailored to consumers' needs.

"Our aim is for you to experience a high-quality service. Professionalism, efficiency, flexibility, and accuracy are critical in the hospitality industry,

and these are the things I can reassure the conference centre offers on a consistent basis," she said.

Impressed with the facility's offering, Old Mutual's, Ms Sive Somtsewu said: *"This was my first time visiting the ELIDZ - the hospitality and welcoming I have experienced and received from the place is genuinely appreciated. The building is refreshing, and the catering is amazing! The centre has made a lasting impression, and I would recommend it to others. I am looking forward to utilising it for future events."*

As part of the event, the attendees embarked on a tour of the ELIDZ. The guests expressed gratitude for the insightful information shared and the great experience of the world-class facility which boasts the latest technology and exceptional catering services.



PERFECT PRECISION



SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY
PARK

*The ELIDZ STP Consulting
& Analytical Services
(CAS) Laboratory*



The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Consulting and Analytical Services (CAS) Laboratory, an accredited laboratory by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), is situated at the ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP). The ELIDZ CAS Laboratory, boasting state-of-the-art equipment, enhances the analytical testing capabilities for the water, food, and soil industries in the Eastern Cape Province.



The laboratory adheres to government and industry regulations, which establish guidelines for acceptable pathogenic and non-pathogenic micro-organisms in specific samples and food groups. It also ensures compliance by following green drop specifications and adhering to SANAS 241, which serves as a benchmark for environmental testing.

The ELIDZ CAS Laboratory is staffed with skilled chemists, biochemists, and microbiologists, offering a wide spectrum of chemical and microbiological analysis services.

In our laboratory, we analyse various types of samples, including:

- **Surface Water Analysis:** Testing water from rivers, lakes, dams, and pools to assess its quality and potential contaminants.
- **Groundwater / Borehole Water Analysis:** We examine water from boreholes, wells, and spring sources.
- **Drinking Water Analysis:** Testing of tap water, bottled water, and treated surface or groundwater to verify its fitness for consumption.
- **Wastewater Analysis:** We assess wastewater and its compliance with environmental standards.
- **Inorganic Analysis - Major Cations/Anions:** We analyse the major cations and anions present in water to understand its chemical composition.
- **Physicochemical Analysis:** Examination of physical and chemical properties of substances.
- **Microbiological Analysis:** We perform microbial testing to detect the presence of microorganisms.
- **Metal Scan:** We conduct tests to identify the presence of metals in various samples.
- **Microbiological Food Analysis:** We analyse food products for microbial contamination and safety.



***If you are looking for
a reliable, state-of-the-
art, SANAS accredited
CAS Laboratory,
contact our LAB
specialists today!***

Ludwe Macingwane - T: 087 373 0702 | **E:** Ludwe@elidz.co.za
Khayakazi Nonkonyana - T: 043 702 8209 | **E:** Khayakazi@elidz.co.za
Nomfundo Krakra - T: 087 373 0953 | **E:** Nomfundo@elidz.co.za

www.elidzstp.co.za