

MAYOR XABA WELCOMES LAUNCH OF PILGRIM X HOUSING PROJECT



tion expected to commence in January 2025. The anticipated completion date is November 2028. What is also important to note is that this upgrade is strategically located near economic opportunities, schools, healthcare facilities, and other crucial social amenities, addressing historical spatial inequalities,” said Mayor Xaba.

Minister Kubayi said the project is funded by the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) and the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG), a collaborative effort between national and provincial Human Settlements departments and eThekweni Municipality.

“This project prioritises in-situ upgrading, enhancing existing settlements without relocation and providing permanent engineering services and secure tenure. I am also encouraged by the fact that eThekweni has made significant progress in upgrading informal settlements, effectively utilising a substantial portion of its allocated budgets for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years,” said Minister Kubayi.

Minister of Human Settlements Mmamoloko Kubayi, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, and HOD of the national Department of Human Settlements Vusi Tsoshe launched the Pilgrim X Informal Settlements Upgrading Project in Pilgrim in Isiphingo.

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba expressed enthusiasm for the launch of the Pilgrim X Housing Project by Minister of Human Settlements Mmamoloko Kubayi and KwaZulu-Natal

Human Settlements MEC Siboniso Duma in Isiphingo recently.

The project will upgrade the Pilgrim X Informal Settlement, delivering 404 housing units equipped with metered water,

electricity, sanitation, and essential social amenities such as parks, early childhood development centres, and places of worship. “We are delighted that this project is finally underway, with construc-

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DURBAN ICC VOTED AFRICA'S LEADING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE VENUE



THE INKOSI Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) has again clinched the title of being voted Africa's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre 2024 in the World Travel Awards.

The Durban ICC also received this illustrious industry accolade last year when it was chosen as the continent's Leading Meetings and

Conference Centre 2023.

The iconic meetings, incentives, conferences and events (MICE) venue which was opened by former President Nelson Mandela in 1997 has been crowned Africa's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre for at least 20 years in its 27-years of existence.

Between 2010 to 2018, the Durban ICC was crowned Africa's Leading Meetings

and Conference Centre for nine consecutive years before being placed after Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, which took first prize. Now the Durban ICC is again on a winning streak, taking top position for the second year in a row, a testament to its unwavering commitment to excellence.

The World Travel Awards, known for its tradition of

honouring travel excellence and industry leadership, has, for three decades, been recognising organisations that consistently elevate the standards of the global travel and tourism sector. The Durban ICC's dedication to providing world-class services and facilities for meetings and conferences has made it a repeat recipient of this prestigious title.

Durban ICC Chief Executive Officer, Lindiwe Rakharebe said: "We are immensely proud and humbled. This achievement reflects the dedication of our team and our unwavering commitment to providing a world-class platform for meetings and events."

She said the award is a testament to their exceptional team and the commitment of providing superior experiences to clients and their delegates.

SOUTHERN SUN AND DURBAN TOURISM PARTNER TO PROMOTE DURBAN

SOUTHERN Sun has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to Durban through a partnership with Durban Tourism. The hotel group is continuing its investment in the region through a summer holiday activation aimed at revitalising tourism and positioning Durban as South Africa's top holiday destination.

This collaboration highlights the dedication of both Southern Sun and Durban Tourism to promoting the region's rich diversity and vibrant attractions.

With its beautiful beaches, vibrant energy, many historical sights, family-friendly activities and an array of accommodation within the region, Durban has so much to offer both local and international holiday makers.

Samantha Croft, Southern Sun's Durban Region

Operations Director, shared: "Southern Sun's legacy in the Durban region spans over five decades. We remain fully committed to the growth and success of this beautiful region."

Deputy Head of Durban Tourism Winile Mntungwa said: "Our long-standing partnership with Southern Sun is built on a shared goal – promoting Durban as South Africa's top holiday destination."

Visitors should get ready to enjoy a perfect Durban summer holiday, with Southern Sun's SunBreaks Summer offer. Enjoy idyllic beachside relaxation, urban exploration, or quality time with family with great rates of up to 30 percent off December/January holiday bookings.

The partnership between Southern Sun and Durban

Tourism underscores the commitment to providing visitors with unforgettable experiences in Durban.

For more visit southernsun.com and visitdurban.travel or follow [@DBNTourism](https://www.instagram.com/DBNTourism) on social media



Southern Sun has partnered with Durban Tourism for a summer holiday activation aimed to revitalise tourism and position Durban as a top holiday destination.



BUSINESS PARTNERS WITH CITY TO CREATE POSITIVE NARRATIVE

A successful engagement was held by the Municipality in partnership with City Story to engage the business sector in the Outer West region recently. The event aimed to create a paradigm shift and shared vision to reshape eThekweni's narrative and collectively build on the strengths for a prosperous and inclusive City. The positive business confidence index trend, plans for the inner-city regeneration, the sound financial position of the City, as well as investment opportunities and critical partnerships to drive economic growth were shared by Lihle Phewa, Deputy City Manager of Economic Development.

He addressed approximately 400 businessmen and women, detailing the positive efforts that the City has been making to ensure its economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and projected growth. "Today's event reflects our commitment to building a City



The Municipality, in partnership with City Story, engaged with the business sector in the Outer West region recently.

that competes on the global stage while remaining deeply connected to the needs of our communities and businesses."

He added: "Guided by the Sakha iTheku / Shape Durban Strategy, we are crafting an urban environment where economic opportunity, sustainable development, and social inclusivity converge. Our

goal is to create a City that not only retains its residents and businesses but also attracts new investment, talent, and innovation from around the world."

He assured delegates that the financial standing of eThekweni remains sound and resilient.

"The success of eThekweni's journey to becoming a

world-class City hinges on our collective efforts. Our vision can only be realised with the commitment of all stakeholders. Whether through investment in catalytic projects, collaboration on infrastructure, or support in renewable energy initiatives, your partnership is essential," he urged.

Adele Benvi, Chief Executive Officer of the Success Company said the business community believes in Durban's ability to be a leading city in South Africa, one that attracts tourists and foreign investment.

"Hearing positive news about Durban will create an entire paradigm shift among a larger business audience who are excited to work collaboratively to change the narrative about our City. Durban is poised for greatness – we need everyone involved to catapult it to its potential," she said.

BOREHOLES COMMISSIONED IN AREAS WITH LOW SUPPLY

THE Municipality has commissioned five boreholes in areas experiencing water supply challenges. The boreholes were commissioned in Ward 60, in Ward 100, and Ward 98.

These communities will no longer rely on the tankers for their water supply as the boreholes are in the communities as part of interim relief.

Ward 60 Councillor Fakazi Mdletshe expressed gratitude and said the borehole will go a long way in mitigating the water supply challenge in the area. "We appreciate having a borehole in the Mhlasini area because relying on water tankers is not sustainable as these trucks do not come



There was ululation when officials from the eThekweni Water and Sanitation Unit and Ward Councillor Fakazi Mdletshe unveiled a new borehole in Ward 60, in the Mhlasini area.

to the area every day. The Mhlasini area has grown rapidly with many households and residents. This resulted to the water bulk line not

having capacity to meet the growing demand. There is not enough pressure to push water to this area; however, this is being attended to through

infrastructure upgrades," said Councillor Mdletshe.

The borehole produces 2 000 litres a day and can run up to 20 hours daily. Water produced from the borehole has been tested and complies with the South African National Standard 241 for drinking water requirements. Residents are discouraged from washing their cars, clothes, and connecting hoses to and from the borehole taps to their household static tanks.

"Residents must look after this borehole which has been installed for their benefit," added Councillor Mdletshe.

The community welcomed the project saying it will make life easier.



SCHOLAR TRANSPORT DRIVER AWARDED A NEW QUANTUM FOR ADHERENCE TO ROAD RULES



Jerusha Gopal, a scholar transport operator, won a new Toyota Quantum. Handing her the keys are Deputy Chairperson of the Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee Councillor Sifiso Mkhize (right) and Suben Moodley, Senior Vice President for Corporate Services at Toyota South Africa Motors (Pty) Ltd.

Jerusha Gopal won a new Toyota Quantum vehicle through an electronic lucky draw.

Gopal was among four finalists who recorded no transgressions while transporting scholars over the monitoring period during operating hours.

The programme initially trained 128 drivers. However, only 74 were selected for the five-day road safety workshop. The remaining 54 drivers were disqualified due to non-compliant vehicles.

Gopal said winning the Quantum will allow her to transport more learners to and from school in and around the north of Durban.

“Thank you, eThekweni Municipality, for allowing the scholar transport sector to participate in this scholar safety project. This is a dream come true. I pledge to continue providing safe and reliable transportation service to my learners, in a new and comfortable vehicle,” said Gopal.

ETA partnered with Global Road Safety Partnership,

Toyota South Africa Limited, Netstar, Afrofleet and other key stakeholders for the project.

Deputy Chairperson of the Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee Councillor Sifiso Mkhize said the Safe to School, Safe to Home Scholar Programme aims to contribute to the reduction in the death and injury of school children in road crashes en route to and from school.

The drivers were scored according to the number of transgressions the tracking devices detected during their drives to school and then during the trip home.

The transgressions included speeding, harsh acceleration, and harsh braking.

Suben Moodley Senior Vice President of Corporate Services: Toyota South Africa Motors (Pty) Ltd praised eThekweni Municipality for being the only municipality in the country to rollout this project in addressing the safety of scholars using private transport.

THE City continues to actively promote the safe transportation of school learners by scholar transport drivers through the Safe to School, Safe to Home Scholar Transport Programme.

Wrapping up Transport Month activities, the

eThekweni Transport Authority’s (ETA) Road Safety Branch hosted the Safe to School, Safe to Home Scholar Transport Awards ceremony at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 30 October.

Scholar transport operator

BIODIVERSITY DEPARTMENT SCOOPS AWARD

THE City’s Biodiversity Management Department has achieved well-earned recognition for its outstanding environmental impact assessments, culminating in a prestigious award presented by the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA).

This achievement underscores the cluster’s dedication to environmental stewardship. The award was conferred during the 3rd EAPASA Regional Conference.

Zinhle Dlamini, Acting Deputy

Head of the Biodiversity Management Department said eThekweni Municipality, through the Biodiversity Management Department, is the first Municipality to be recognised by EAPASA in the country. It is also the metro with the largest number (75 percent) of officials who are registered with both EAPASA and the South African Council for National Scientific Profession. “I am deeply humbled by this achievement and that our efforts are being recognised.”



The Biodiversity Management Department scooped an award for its innovative role in ensuring environmental compliance in development in the City.

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