ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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By 2030 eThekwini will be Africa's most caring and liveable City

04 November 2025 [Issue 438]

KEY SERVICE DELIVERY INTERVENTIONS IN THE CITY

THE progress being made on key service delivery interventions were highlighted during a media briefing by eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba on 2 November. Mayor Xaba also provided an update on Full Council decisions taken during a meeting on 31 October.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and Executive Director: Office of the City Manager Sipho Cele held a press briefing to update media and residents on key service delivery interventions making a positive impact in the community.

WATER AND SANITATION

Mayor Xaba said the City announced plans several months ago to address water and sanitation challenges as outlined in the Water and Sanitation Turnaround Strategy.

"At the centre of this strategy is our commitment to curb water losses or what is referred to as Non-Revenue Water (NRW). Our latest data indicates a decrease of 2.9 percent of NRW for quarter one (July to September) when compared to the same period last year."

He said this is attributed to multifaceted interventions, which include the deployment of plumbers to reservoir zones with high water loss, the maintenance and installation of meters, and industrial commercial and institutional meter upgrades among others.

He said there has also been a notable improvement in the operation of the City's sewer system, with a significant reduction in overflows, particularly those affecting beaches. Currently, out of 23 bathing beaches, 21 are open and safe for swimming.

REVENUE ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES

He said Council has approved the extension of the special Debt Relief Programme for business and residential customers.

The programme will run for three months, from 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026.

ROLLING OUT OF ELECTRICITY METERS

Mayor Xaba said the Municipality is committed to ensuring that residents are billed accurately and for the actual services they have consumed monthly.

He said to help achieve this goal,14 000 electricity meters have been received for installation at various properties within the Municipality.

CREATING A CONDUCIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Turning to investment opportunities, Mayor Xaba said eThekwini continues to be a preferred destination for investment and tourism.

He mentioned the recently launched R3.6 billion Beachwood Estate development in Durban North which will create over 2 000 sustainable jobs upon completion.

This was followed by the signing of a 50 year-lease agreement between eThekwini Municipality and Southern Sun Hotels for the redevelopment of the Elangeni and Maharani Towers — the twin pillars of the Durban's Golden Mile.

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY

Mayor Xaba said the Sakhithemba Homeless Shelter in Ilovu will operate as a transitional shelter, providing accommodation for 1 000 people.

He said: "Admissions will be through a comprehensive screening process. Service programmes and psychosocial support such as life skills, counselling, reunification and reintegration, skills development, and job readiness training will also be offered at the shelter."

17 PRIME SITES RELEASED TO BOOST INVESTMENT

IN LINE with its commitment to unlock Municipal land for investment, job creation, and inclusive economic growth, eThekwini Municipality on 31 October released 17 strategically located properties across Durban under its flagship Proactive Land Release Strategy.

The properties, with a combined market value exceeding R360 million and covering 18 hectares, represent a diverse mix of industrial, commercial, mixed-use, and hospitality opportunities.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said the Proactive Land Release Strategy is about enabling growth through structured partnerships between the Municipality and the private sector.

"These properties will stimulate investment, support small business development, and advance spatial transformation by ensuring equitable access to Municipal land," he said.

The City has released 17 prime sites for development under its Proactive Land Release Strategy. This includes The Joint restaurant located on the beachfront.

Monthly rentals range from R8 700 to R777 000, ensuring competitive pricing for undeveloped sites to encourage new developments.

Lease periods for the released sites range between nine and 45 years.

Developers, investors, and businesses are invited to submit proposals in response to the advertised opportunities, which close on 27 February 2026.

50-YEAR LEASE SIGNED FOR ICONIC HOTEL REDEVELOPMENT

THE official lease-signing ceremony between eThekwini Municipality and Southern Sun hotels for the R1 billion-rand redevelopment of two of Durban's most iconic hotels- the Elangeni and Maharani Towers- took place on 29 October. The 50-year lease was won by Southern Sun. The R1 billion-rand capital investment will be broken down into a R622 million upgrade of the Elangeni and Maharani, R157 million for movable assets and R348 million for two additional hotels. This is in line with a functionality requirement that required bidders to further invest in the Durban beachfront precinct. Another R5 million will be invested into the Sunken Gardens, a Municipal park.

The City has signed a 50-year lease with the Southern Sun Hotels. Two hotels on the beachfront will be upgraded as part of the agreement.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "The integrity of the Golden Mile depends on these hotels which are symbols of Durban's identity and ambition."

The redevelopment includes modernised rooms, restaurants, rooftop experiences, and conference spaces.

BUSINESS INDEX REFLECTS STEADY OPTIMISM

THE University of KwaZulu-Natal recently hosted an engaging Durban Business Confidence Index (BCI) meeting, supported by the City's Economic Development Directorate, the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry NPC, and the Macroeconomics Research Unit.

The session explored Durban's economic performance within the global context, highlighting key factors influencing local business sentiment.

Discussions centred on the drivers of fluctuating confidence levels, identifying sectors showing resilience, and areas requiring strategic support to enhance competitiveness and growth.

Collaboration among stakeholders was underscored as essential for building a more sustainable and thriving Durban economy.

The Durban BCI declined slightly by 0.53 percent in the third quarter of 2025, falling to 52.12 index points from 52.40 in the previous quarter.

Despite this dip, the index remains above the neutral zone, signalling continued investor confidence.

Analysts attribute the decrease largely to broader national economic pressures rather than Durban-specific factors.

Director of the Economic Development Directorate Shunnon Tulsiram emphasised the need to raise broader public awareness of the BCI, noting that crime remains a key concern for business confidence.

R18M REVAMPED DOROTHY NYEMBE CLINIC IN UMLAZI

IN A significant stride towards improving access to quality healthcare, eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba on 31 October officially opened the newly renovated Dorothy Nyembe Clinic in uMlazi G Section, Ward 79.

He was joined by eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele and Chairperson of the City's Community Services Committee Councillor Zama Sokhabase.

Mayor Xaba described the project as a testament to the Municipality's unwavering commitment to delivering dignified healthcare to all residents.

The R18 million upgrade of the facility included major infrastructure improvements, expanded capacity, and compliance with National Core Standards, in preparation for the rollout of the National Health Insurance. The revitalised clinic will now serve more than 25 000 residents from uMlazi and surrounding areas.

There were smiles all around as eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba unveiled the Dorothy Nyembe Clinic in uMlazi G-Section.

Mayor Xaba hailed the clinic as a milestone for both the community and the Municipality while Councillor Sokhabase said the clinic will provide a comprehensive primary healthcare package.

The clinic operates Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 4pm.

MAJOR INVESTMENTS TO UPGRADE INFORMAL TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE

A TOTAL of R370 million will be invested over the next three years to upgrade infrastructure in the informal trade sector and provide skills development opportunities for traders.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba made this groundbreaking announcement at the Local Economic Development (LED) Summit, held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 28 and 29 October.

The summit was hosted by the City's Economic Development Directorate bringing together businesses, academia, informal traders, traditional leaders, and other key stakeholders from government and civil society.

The summit aimed to align municipal, provincial, and national economic strategies while reducing red tape and fostering an environment conducive to business growth, innovation, and investment.

The City's Economic Development Directorate hosted a fruitful Local Economic Development Summit attended by City officials and other stakeholders.

Many localities across eThekwini remain excluded from the mainstream economy due to structural inequalities, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance, skills shortages, and weak institutional support.

Mayor Xaba reaffirmed the City's commitment to positioning LED as a central pillar of developmental local government. "That is why we are here today, to put service delivery, infrastructure renewal, business growth, skills development, job creation, and community engagement firmly at the centre of our LED agenda," said Mayor Xaba.

"We are here to engage in open dialogue and encourage active participation."

DRAGON'S DEN DRIVES GROWTH

EXCITEMENT filled the air during the eThekwini Furniture Cluster Dragon's Den competition, which was supported by the City's Economic Development Directorate. The Dragon's Den hosted 11 dynamic small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises. A total prize pool of R35 000 was awarded to four outstanding businesses.

Winners:

- **Best Overall Winner:** Leighjer Designs – David Manicum – R10 000
- **Most Promising Business:** My Basket Shop – Zinhle Msweli – R10 000
- **Best Commercial Prospect:** Tru Outdoor Luxury – Collin Moodley – R10 000
- **Bonus Award:** La Persys Interior Designs – Sindisiwe Qwabe – R5 000

ROAD REHABILITATION GAINS MOMENTUM

THE rehabilitation of roads within Durban's Central Business District (CBD) is progressing rapidly, with several key routes already showing marked improvement. Spearheaded by the Municipality's Road Infrastructure Management Directorate, the Inner-City Road Rehabilitation Programme has injected over R65 million into upgrading vital road infrastructure in the City Centre. The Inner-City Roads Rehabilitation Programme has already delivered upgrades to Simiso Nkwanyana, Masabalala Yengwa, and Lilian Ngoyi Roads. Upcoming projects include David Webster Street, Umgeni Road, and Dr Pixley KaSeme Street.

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CITY RECOGNISED FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

ETHEKWINI Municipality secured multiple accolades at the 2025 Municipal Engineering Excellence Awards.

The awards were co-hosted by the Institute of Municipal Engineering of Southern Africa (IMESA) and Consulting Engineers South Africa.

The ceremony took place on 28 October during the opening of the IMESA Conference and Exhibition in East London.

The event convened over 700 engineers and various municipal leaders from across the country to share innovations, network, and celebrate engineering excellence.

EThekwini Municipality's Road Infrastructure Management and Engineering Services directorates received top honours in several categories.

In the Engineering Excellence in Structures and Civils category, the Municipality was recognised for the Shallcross/Blundell Road and Bridge Construction Project and the Hunslet Road Bridge over the Piesang River in the Phoenix Industrial Park.

Both bridges had suffered severe damage during the floods and were rebuilt with enhanced resilience and structural integrity.

In the Community Upliftment and Job Creation category, the Municipality was honoured for the construction of four 25-metre reinforced concrete pedestrian bridges in Amaoti, Inanda, improving the safety of residents.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba congratulated the engineering teams for their dedication and innovation.

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ETHEKWINI JOINS GLOBAL C40 CITIES TO ADDRESS URBAN HEAT

ETHEKWINI has become a founding member of a new global coalition of cities taking urgent, coordinated action to tackle one of the most dangerous impacts of the climate crisis: extreme heat.

By becoming part of the C40 Cities Cool Cities Accelerator, announced during the World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 3 November, eThekwini is committing to protecting its residents from escalating heat risks and to transform its urban spaces for a safer, cooler future.

Extreme heat is already the deadliest weather-related hazard worldwide, responsible for an estimated 489 000 deaths annually. Without decisive action, the number of people exposed to life-threatening urban heat is projected to increase fivefold by 2050.

C40 established the Accelerator in partnership with The Rockefeller Foundation and with implementation support from Climate Works Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Accelerator provides a practical, science-based framework for cities to respond together to this global threat.

The Cool Cities Accelerator brings together a diverse group of cities representing over 143 million people from every region of the world. By sharing strategies and scaling proven solutions, cities can act faster and more effectively than they could alone.

If you would like to submit feedback or contribute to eThekwini Weekly Bulletin

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