ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

10 February 2026 [Issue 447]

SUCCESSFUL CATALYTIC PROJECT OVERSIGHT VISIT

A HIGH-level delegation, led by eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, visited several catalytic project sites in the City on 6 February.

The aim of the oversight visit was to address challenges related to regulatory approvals, bulk infrastructure provision, and the funding of key catalytic projects.

Mayor Xaba, who is the Chairperson of the eThekwini District Development Model (DDM) Political Hub was joined by the eThekwini DDM Champion and Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment Narend Singh.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the progress of key catalytic sites that are set to redefine the City's economic landscape.

Key project milestones include:

- The Giba Business Estate: This R1.2 billion investment is moving at full steam. The Municipality has already injected over R100 million into critical road infrastructure, which is scheduled for completion within the next two months.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba led a high-level delegation during an oversight visit to several catalytic projects in the City.

- Isibaya Precinct Development: Developed by DEVMCO, this mixed-use hub is nearing the finish line. After 10 years in development, it is set for a grand opening later this year. The precinct will feature an International Convention Centre, a 4 000-seater Playhouse, and a 200-bed facility.

Positive updates were also provided for the Avoca Node, Cato Ridge Node, and the Malaba Canal Project.

Mike Mabuyakhulu, Co-Chairperson of the eThekwini Presidential Working Group (PWG), stressed the importance of immediate intervention to secure R21 billion in total investment.

"The goal is to ensure the work of the PWG is seamlessly integrated into the DDM framework. This ensures

THREE CITY PROGRAMMES SHORTLISTED FOR PREMIER AWARDS

THREE initiatives in eThekwini have been shortlisted in different categories in the prestigious KZN Premier's Service Excellence Awards.

First, the City's mobile app has been shortlisted for the Best Public Service Implementation Project of the Year category. With more than 189 000 downloads, the mobile app continues to improve the way customers interact with the City. Residents use the app to report service faults in their areas and to access important information about Municipal services.

With the second shortlisting, the Social Primary Healthcare Food Security Section nominated the Isiphingo Food for Health Clinic Garden, a flagship initiative demonstrating the strong link between food security, nutrition, improved health outcomes, and collaborations.

And finally, the third programme shortlisted was the service delivery driven Operation Good Hope (OGH) which addresses service delivery challenges holistically. OGH was shortlisted in the category: Best Public Service Implemented Programme or Project.

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LOCAL BUSINESSES GAIN INSIGHTS ON DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA

Durban businesses learned how to register with China's General Administration of Customs to access new markets during the 'Doing Business with China' workshop held on 3 February at Durban Country Club.

DURBAN-BASED small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises gathered on 3 February at the Durban Country Club to learn how to navigate China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) registration, a crucial step for exporting food and agro-processed products to the world's second-largest economy. The workshop, attended by over 70 business owners, was hosted by the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with eThekwini Municipality and the Chinese Consulate.

Li Zhigong, Chinese Consul General for Durban, explained the processes of registering overseas food enterprises and products with GACC. "We work closely with the province and eThekwini Municipality to ensure this region becomes conducive for businesses, enabling them to access new markets in China," he said, highlighting that selected businesses would receive sponsorship support to help kick-start exports.

The workshop provided guidance on registration requirements for 18 product categories.

EThekwini Municipality Programme Manager Elizabeth Nhliziyo emphasised the value of the workshop.

"By equipping local businesses with the tools to meet Chinese regulatory requirements, we are helping turn export potential into real economic growth," she said.

DURBAN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE REBOUNDS STRONGLY

THE Durban Business Confidence Index (DBCI) has recorded a sharp rebound in the fourth quarter of 2025. The index increased from 52.12 points in 2025/Q3 to 63.38 points in 2025/Q4, representing a quarter-on-quarter rise of 21.6 percent and placing the index firmly above the neutral level.

Compared to the same period in 2024, business confidence improved by 4.35 percent, indicating a more favourable operating environment. Approximately six out of ten surveyed business executives reported satisfaction with prevailing business conditions.

The DBCI continues to outperform the national Business Confidence Index, which stood at 44 points in 2025/Q4, only marginally above its long-term average. Sectoral performance was broadly positive. Manufacturing confidence rose by 15.85 percent quarter-on-quarter and by 6.88 percent year-on-year, supported by stronger demand following a 0.5 percent expansion in national economic activity in 2025/Q3.

Significant improvements were also recorded in financial and business services (26.38 percent), transport, storage and communication (up to 66.9 points), and community, social and personal services (25.86 percent quarter-on-quarter).

While the electricity, gas and water sectors showed short-term improvement, business confidence remained below 2024 levels. Wholesale and retail trade posted modest gains, supported by easing inflationary pressures and lower interest rates.

Improved perceptions of Municipal service delivery also contributed to rising confidence, with fewer respondents expressing dissatisfaction. Overall, despite ongoing global uncertainties, the strong recovery in the DBCI reflects renewed optimism and presents an opportunity for authorities to leverage confidence levels to attract investment and stimulate growth in Durban.

DRIVING AFRICA'S BLUE ECONOMY FORWARD

OCEAN Innovation Africa returns to Durban, taking place from 23 to 25 March and bringing together the people and ideas shaping the future of Africa's ocean economy. The event will take place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre and will convene innovators, policymakers, investors, researchers, and industry leaders committed to accelerating sustainable growth within the continent's blue economy.

Attendees can look forward to a dynamic programme designed to inspire collaboration and action. Ocean Innovation Africa is more than a conference, it is a platform for driving impact, unlocking investment, and shaping policies that support resilient and inclusive ocean-based economies across Africa.

Secure your seat now, visit: https://www.quicket.com/events/355236-ocean-innovation-africa-2026/#/

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT CONSULTATIONS GET UNDERWAY

SERVICE delivery, accountability and partnership took centre stage as eThekwini Municipality's public consultations on the Draft Annual Report for the 2024/25 financial year commenced, starting with an engagement with traditional leaders on 5 February.

The engagement, attended by traditional leaders from across eThekwini, set a strong and energising tone for the City's public participation programme following Council's approval of the Draft Annual Report.

It reinforced the Municipality's commitment to inclusive governance and meaningful collaboration.

Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala highlighted the critical role played by traditional leaders in advancing local government objectives.

"Traditional leadership is a key stakeholder in promoting social and economic development. Their involvement strengthens communication with communities and ensures that Municipal programmes respond meaningfully to real needs on the ground," he said.

Traditional leaders from across eThekwini convened at the Pinetown Civic Centre on 5 February to comment and provide input on the Draft Annual Report 2024/25.

Traditional leaders were taken through a detailed presentation on the Municipality's performance during the 2024/25 financial year.

The engagement also served as a platform to identify service delivery gaps and jointly address challenges facing communities.

Chairperson of traditional leaders in eThekwini, Inkosi Simingaye Mlaba, welcomed the engagement, describing it as a clear demonstration of the Municipality's recognition of traditional leadership as a critical partner in development.

The Draft Annual Report reflects an overall performance achievement of 86.7 percent for the 2024/25 financial year, underscoring continued organisational stabilisation despite ongoing budgetary pressures.

Public engagements are ongoing, and residents are encouraged to submit comments by 6 March 2026.

The Draft Annual Report is available on the Municipality's website at www.durban.gov.za and can also be accessed electronically at Sizakala Centres and libraries.

Copies may be requested via email from Noky.Nyasulu@durban.gov.za or by calling 031 311 4208 for more information.

CONTRACT EXTENSION ALLOWS FOR UNINTERRUPTED SERVICES

THE Energy Management Directorate has been given the green light to have a month-to-month contract with electrical service providers.

The extension of this contract will ensure the provision of maintenance and repairs of electrical supply to industrial, commercial businesses, and residential areas, said Deputy Chairperson of the Trading Services Committee Councillor Ayanda Ndlovu.

The update was provided during a recent special sitting of the committee. The month-to-month contract will commence on 1 March 2026 until the new 36-month contract is in place.

"This is the City's initiative to provide reliable and sustainable electrical supply, including streetlighting, to enhance safety," said Councillor Ndlovu.

The contracted service providers will work on the maintenance and repair of medium and low voltage substations and medium and low voltage overhead and underground mains for MV. This will assist internal staff given the current workload.

Director of the Energy Management Directorate Philani Shange said electrical contractors will be appointed to supplement internal resources to maintain electrical distribution networks.

GROWING LOCAL FURNITURE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

ETHEKWINI Municipality, through its Economic Development Directorate, continues to play a key role in growing the local furniture manufacturing sector by supporting the eThekwini Furniture Cluster (EFC). This support reinforces the City's commitment to inclusive economic growth, job creation, and industrial development.

A successful skills development workshop was hosted by the eThekwini Furniture Cluster.

Furniture manufacturing remains a cornerstone of eThekwini's economy, offering strong employment potential and accessible entry points for skills development and enterprise growth.

As the first year of the current three-year partnership with the EFC concludes, the Municipality reflects positively on the progress achieved despite operational challenges. The Municipality's support has also enabled the EFC to strengthen strategic partnerships with other organisations.

ETHEKWINI'S REBRANDING JOURNEY

ETHEKWINI'S rebranding journey is gaining momentum as the campaign continues to be rolled out across the City. The initiative marks a clear shift in how the City positions itself to businesses, investors, and strategic partners.

The campaign strengthens how eThekwini defines its identity, purpose, and future direction.

At the centre of this process is the understanding that cities compete for investment, trust, and long-term growth.

The Municipality's workforce plays a key role in driving this change. Employees remain central to building a City that is modern, united, people-centred, and focused on the future.

This rebranding represents an opportunity to influence how eThekwini is viewed and understood. It allows the City to clearly state who it is, what it stands for, and how it intends to grow. A new Municipal logo is part of this process and the public is encouraged to submit designs on what they think the new inclusive logo should be.

For more information on the rebranding campaign, visit www.inboxthecity.co.za

TOURISM WORKSHOP EMPOWERS BUSINESSES

Tourism businesses engaged in customer care training at the Durban Botanic Gardens on 5 and 6 February, enhancing skills to deliver exceptional service across the City, including to tourists.

A TOURISM Customer Care Workshop, held on 5 and 6 February at the Durban Botanic Gardens, was a resounding success, attracting a full house of tourism businesses. Organised in partnership with eThekwini Municipality and the Durban University of Technology (DUT), the two-day workshop brought together tourism professionals to enhance customer service skills and foster collaboration, strengthening Durban's position as a destination of choice. Facilitated by Zweli Tembe from DUT, the workshop unpacked essential topics such as understanding customer service for both external and internal clients, effective communication, and the importance of discussion and feedback. Participants engaged in practical exercises emphasising empathy, responsiveness, and real-world application of service strategies. Durban Tourism shared insights on sector best practices and highlighted the impact of the annual Durban Tourism Business Awards in promoting and rewarding business excellence.

Welcome Maduna, who oversees Tourism Enterprise Development within eThekwini Municipality's Economic Development Directorate, thanked participants for their commitment to improving service standards. "This workshop not only equips businesses with skills but also strengthens our tourism community."

INDUSTRY CONNECT SESSION HELD

THE KwaZulu-Natal Clothing and Textile Cluster, in partnership with the City's Economic Development Directorate, convened a Cluster Connect session at the Toyota Wessels Institute for Manufacturing Studies (TWIMS) on 3 February.

The event brought together key industry stakeholders to tackle pressing challenges affecting small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) and enhance sector competitiveness.

Participants engaged in in-depth discussions on regulatory fragmentation, barriers to market access, and operational inefficiencies that impact business sustainability.

The session highlighted the critical role of human-centric manufacturing approaches and targeted skills development in driving growth and innovation within the sector.

Speakers emphasised the transformative potential of digitalisation, business intelligence, and data analytics in improving strategic decision-making, boosting productivity, and unlocking new opportunities across the clothing and textile value chain. Attendees also explored collaborative strategies to strengthen industry networks and support SMMEs in navigating the evolving market landscape. The Cluster Connect initiative reflects an ongoing committment to fostering a resilient and competitive clothing and textile industry in KZN, equipping businesses with tools and insight.

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

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