



ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN



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

8 April 2026 [Issue 455]

IDP/BUDGET CONSULTATIONS GET UNDERWAY

PUBLIC consultations on the City's Draft 2026/27 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget are set to get underway. Residents, the business community, civil society and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend the public consultations to have their say.

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, along with a delegation of officials, will soon be taking the Draft IDP and Budget to communities.

Mayor Xaba has declared 2026/27 as "The Year of Accelerated Service Delivery,"

with the City's R74.7 billion budget prioritising the repair and upgrading of infrastructure. "The 2026/27 Draft Budget balances fiscal discipline with targeted revenue growth, aiming to manage high debt while supporting vulnerable households, infrastructure, and job creation."

Pre-consultations have also already started with councillors to present the draft capital budget allocations per ward, provide them with an opportunity to review proposed projects, identify discrepancies or omissions and submit corrections and additional

inputs before community engagements are held.

Information regarding the community consultations will be released in due course, through the City's media platforms as well as local media. After consultations are concluded and all feedback considered, the draft IDP/Budget will be taken back to Full Council for final adoption.

The IDP/Budget is available on the City's website, www.durban.gov.za and at all Municipal offices and Sizakala Centres. Feedback can be emailed to comments2021@durban.gov.za before 9 May.

KEY CAPITAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

R3 BILLION

Upgrade and expansion of wastewater treatment works

R1.7 BILLION

Water loss prevention and replacement of water pipes

R2.4 BILLION

Electricity infrastructure

R2.3 BILLION

Low-cost housing infrastructure

R1.1 BILLION

Public transport

R204 MILLION

Replacement of bus fleet

R2.4 BILLION

Address community services backlogs

R1.4 BILLION

Road rehabilitation, construction and new access roads

R999 MILLION

Zonal planning

R503 MILLION

Catalytic projects

PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASES

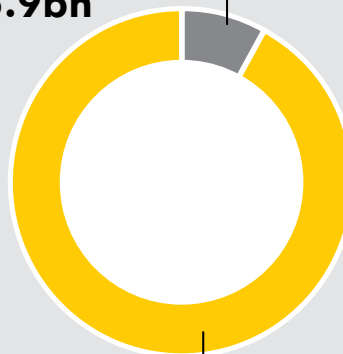
The proposed tariff increases are based on the increases submitted by bulk providers, Eskom (9%) and uMngeni-uThukela Water (13%), taking into account the affordability by residents and the sustainability of the Municipality.

SERVICE	PROPOSED INCREASE
WATER	
Residential	15%
Business	16%
ELECTRICITY	
Residential	10.5%
Business	10.5%
SANITATION	
Residential	13%
Business	14%
PROPERTY RATES	5%
REFUSE	13%

TOTAL BUDGET R74.7bn

CAPITAL BUDGET: R5.9bn

OPERATING BUDGET: R68.8bn



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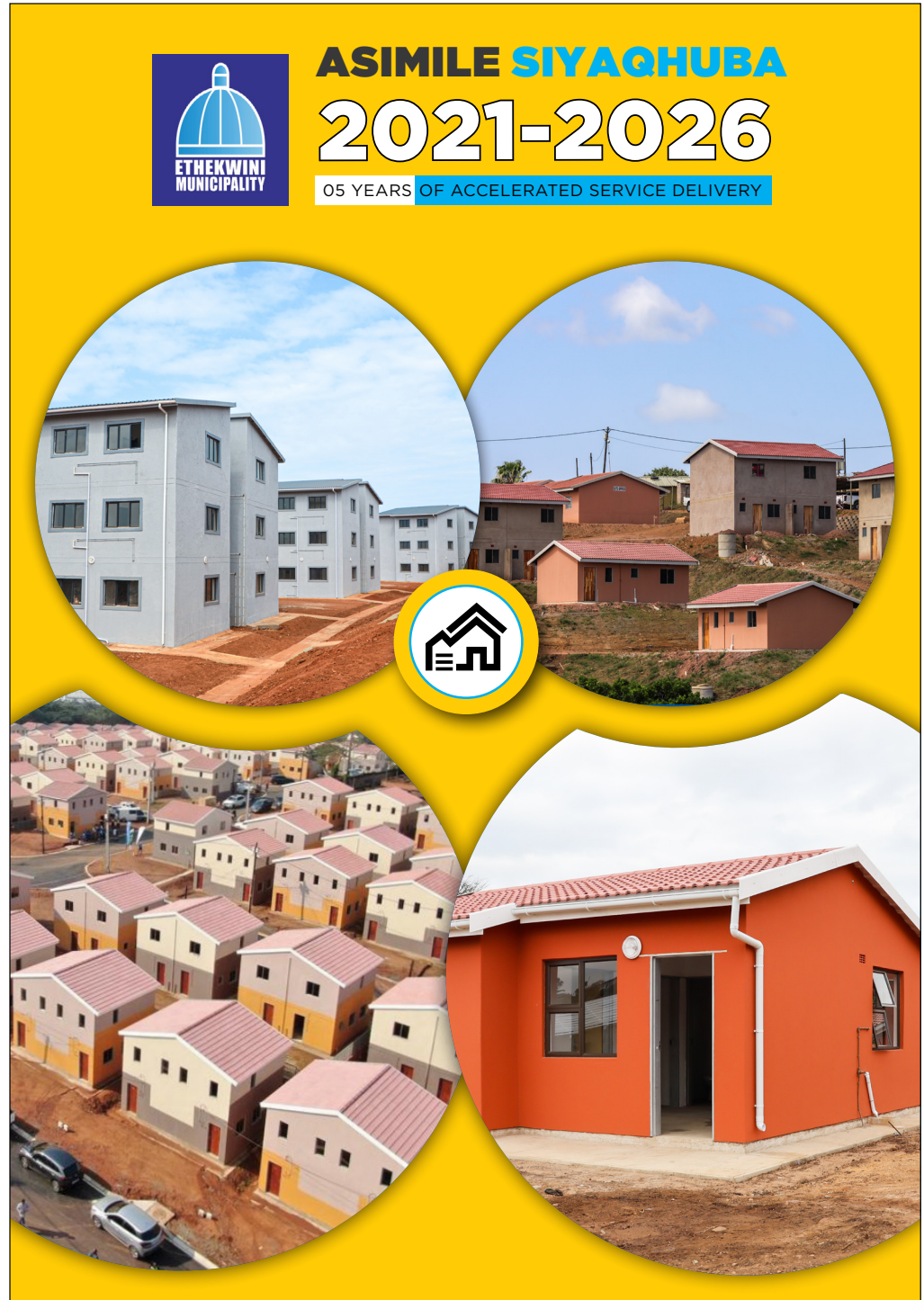
OR CHECK BEACH NOTICE BOARD FOR THE LATEST E.COLI RESULTS

ASIMILE SIYAQHUBA – FIVE YEARS OF ADVANCEMENT TOWARDS PROVIDING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

TO HIGHLIGHT the transformative efforts that has shaped service delivery during the 2021-2026 term of office, the City is rolling out the Five-Year Service Delivery Milestones campaign under the theme: Asimile Siyaqhuba: Resilience Through Adversity. The spotlight in this week's edition focuses on housing delivery where significant progress has been achieved by the Human Settlements Directorate over the past five years. This reflects a strong commitment to expanding access to dignified housing, upgrading living environments, and improving the overall quality of life for residents. During this period, the directorate issued 5 725 title deeds, enabling thousands of families to secure legal ownership and strengthen their generational wealth prospects.

Over the same five-year period, the Municipality continued its programme of improving existing housing infrastructure. A total of 1 194 pre 1994 housing units were upgraded and refurbished to ensure safety, structural integrity, and improved living conditions for long-standing communities. The directorate further expanded access to affordable housing through the delivery of 10 359 rental and Breaking New Ground units, contributing substantially to meeting the demand for formal housing within the City. In addition, the directorate delivered 669 units through the upgrading and refurbishment of Community Residential Units and the construction of new family units within existing hostels, strengthening the Municipality's commitment to upgrading high-density living environments.

Efforts to improve informal settlements also advanced significantly, with 40 777 households receiving



incremental services such as roads, footpaths, and stormwater controls, ensuring safer, more accessible, and more resilient living conditions.

To further support vulnerable households, the Municipality allocated 11 702 new fully subsidised housing units over

the past five years, assisting thousands of qualifying beneficiaries with secure access to formal shelter. Altogether, the Human Settlements Directorate successfully created 20 839 housing opportunities during this period, marking a substantial contribution to

addressing housing needs across eThekweni. These achievements represent the Municipality's continued dedication to delivering sustainable human settlements, strengthening community resilience, and enhancing the dignity of residents.



VISITORS PRAISED DURBAN'S ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES OVER EASTER PERIOD



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba engaged with holidaymakers on the Durban beachfront over the Easter holiday.

A WALKABOUT conducted by eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba on the beachfront over the Easter weekend revealed that the security measures implemented yielded positive results. Mayor Xaba also took the opportunity to engage with holidaymakers from South Africa and abroad during the walkabout.

Visitors commended the heightened police visibility and expressed confidence in the City's safety arrangements.

Mayor Xaba said: "We expected 1.2 million visitors to Durban over the Easter weekend. We will soon release

figures on how we have fared to achieve this target."

The Mayor confirmed that 1 000 police officers were deployed to safeguard visitors at entertainment venues, places of worship, and other popular attractions. He said the City remained committed to maintaining its reputation as a premier tourist destination.

"We are working closely with the private sector to expand tourism offerings, ensuring that visitors not only feel safe but are encouraged to stay longer and experience more of what Durban has to offer," he said.

RESURGENCE 2026 SET TO ATTRACT GLOBAL INVESTMENT

IN A continued effort to boost investment, tourism, and Durban's global positioning, eThekweni Municipality will host the third instalment of the reSURGEnce Conference Durban from 24 to 28 July at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre.

This follows Full Council approval on 31 March to host the event, reaffirming the conference as a flagship international platform delivered in partnership with the New York Times. The conference is set to attract global investors, policymakers and industry leaders to engage on economic recovery, innovation, and future growth sectors, further positioning Durban as a destination of choice for high-level engagements.

The 2025 edition demonstrated significant socio-economic impact, recording 3 973 attendees and generating a total direct spend of R30.27 million. Through economic multiplier effects, the total contribution to the

GDP reached R105.44 million, while supporting 155 annual equivalent jobs, contributing R22.4 million to household income and R5.2 million in government taxes. Building on this success, the 2026 conference is projected to deliver even greater economic returns while strengthening investment pipelines and unlocking new opportunities for local businesses.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "The reSURGEnce Conference continues to demonstrate its value as a catalyst for economic growth and global engagement. The impressive impact recorded in 2025 affirms our strategic focus to host world-class conferences that attract investment, support job creation, and position Durban as a competitive global city. I am confident that the 2026 edition will build on this momentum and deliver even greater benefits for our economy and communities."

DIGITALLY YOU SIGNALS SMARTER FUTURE FOR RECRUITMENT

ETHEKWINI Municipality's job application portal is entering a new digital chapter, reinventing access for job seekers as the City unveils the Digitally You e-Recruitment system. The platform reflects a broader shift toward digital governance, strengthening transparency, efficiency, and credibility in public-sector hiring while improving the overall applicant experience. The Digitally You job portal replaces fragmented, paper-based processes with a single, secure digital channel that standardises how vacancies are advertised and applications are assessed. The system demonstrates

how technology can reinforce institutional integrity while supporting compliance, auditability, and faster recruitment turnaround times. Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala said Digitally You reflects ethical leadership and disciplined governance.

"This platform strengthens trust, consolidates fragmented processes into one efficient platform, eliminates inefficiencies and demonstrates the City's commitment to a clean recruitment process that is based strictly on merit."



The City has launched the Digitally You job application portal, making job applications easier and more efficient.



SMMES TRANSFORMED AND EMPOWERED THROUGH DBF



The Durban Business Fair remains South Africa's leading exhibition platform, offering a premier empowerment programme that enables entrepreneurs to showcase their products, gain valuable knowledge and skills, expand their market reach, and connect with new clientele, investors, and key stakeholders.

THE DURBAN Business Fair (DBF) continues to deliver life-changing impact for entrepreneurs, with exhibitors crediting the platform for business expansion, market access, and global opportunities.

For Thando Mdladla, founder of Uthando Glow Beauty and Wellness, the fair has been a significant turning point. What began as a small skincare showcase has grown into a

fully-fledged brand offering advanced treatments and products. "The fair provided me with visibility, credibility, and access to opportunities I never imagined, including exhibiting internationally," she said.

Mdladla has been exhibiting at the DBF for six consecutive years, with the highlight being winning the Durban Business Fair Excellence Awards last year under the youth category.

"Through creating networks and exposure, I secured an opportunity to exhibit in Ghana, demonstrating how far a vision can travel with the right platform. This recognition also led to my business being acknowledged by the National Youth Development Agency and the Durban University of Technology Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. The Durban Business Fair is a powerful platform, and once you thrive there, you attract more opportunities," she said.

Similarly, Celiwe Ntuli of Zulu Brides, who has participated for eight years, said the platform has expanded her client base and strengthened business operations.

"The exposure connected us to new markets, while the seminars equipped us with tools to run a more structured and sustainable business," she said.

Building on this impact, the 2026 DBF edition, takes place from 30 April to 2 May at Durban Exhibition Centre under the theme; '28 Years of connecting SMMEs to markets and opportunities'. It will offer a dynamic programme featuring seminars, masterclasses,

skills workshops, networking sessions, market access platforms, and engagements on innovation, funding, and international trade opportunities within the fair's international pavilion.

With exhibition space filling up fast, businesses that have not yet registered are urged to act immediately and not wait for the registration deadline of 17 April, as limited spaces remain.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee, Councillor Thembo Ntuli, said the fair remains a platform that unlocks growth, builds brands, and connects businesses to real opportunities.

Registration forms can be downloaded here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ye96s948>

Alternatively, forms are available at:

- 199 Anton Lembede Street (7th Floor)
- All Sizakala Customer Centres
- Online at www.durban.gov.za (Business SMME Development Durban Business Fair)
- Email zamani.shezi@durban.gov.za

ETHEKWINI BOOSTS SMMES WITH TARGETED BUSINESS COMPLIANCE DRIVE

ETHEKWINI Municipality is intensifying its drive to build a thriving and inclusive local economy by placing business compliance at the forefront of its support programmes. Recognising that operating legally unlocks growth opportunities, protects consumers, and promotes fair trade, the City is rolling out a series of

targeted Business Licensing Compliance Workshops across communities.

The programme kicked off on 8 April at the Bluff Golf Club in Ward 66. The initiative will continue in Ward 92 on 15 April at 3789 Guest House in Clermont, before concluding in Ward 53 on 23 April at the Amaoti Community Hall, where the focus will expand to

broader business information sharing. All sessions will run from 10am to 3pm.

The workshops are designed to equip small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises with practical knowledge on licensing requirements, compliance processes, and the benefits of formalisation, while also offering onsite registration support.

Delivered in partnership with key stakeholders and government departments, the initiative aims to empower entrepreneurs to operate sustainably, access funding opportunities, and participate meaningfully in the mainstream economy. For enquiries, email siphiwe.zwane@durban.gov.za or call 031 311 4500.



CITY TAKES STRATEGIC LEAD IN TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



eThekweni Municipality convened key stakeholders to tackle youth unemployment through bold partnerships and practical solutions, building an inclusive economy where young people can access real opportunities and sustainable careers.

eTHEKWINI Municipality is redefining the role of local government in addressing youth employment. To bridge this gap, the Economic Development Directorate recently hosted a high-level strategic design session, namely the eThekweni

Municipality Design Session on Youth Employment.

The engagement focused on integrating the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), and the Youth Employment Service (YES)

into municipal systems, moving beyond strategy to operational impact. Despite a modest projected GDP growth of 1.4 percent for 2026, experts warn that economic growth alone cannot absorb the one million young people entering the labour market annually. Against this backdrop, the central theme of the session was the urgent need for government and the private sector to align recruitment systems and update the national youth employment strategy to reflect current economic realities. By eliminating departmental silos, the initiative aims to establish eThekweni as a “Municipality of Excellence”, a local economy where hiring is intentionally inclusive and self-employment is enabled by reducing administrative red tape.

“We are wrapping up phase four of the National Youth Service,” said Mokete Mokone of the NYDA.

He added: “Recruitment for phase five will begin next month. We encourage implementing partners and smaller NGOs to visit www.nyda.gov.za to participate.” Complementing this, Tsholo Mogotsi from the YES programme highlighted the bridge to the private sector. “We place youth in 12-month and permanent positions. Unemployed youth are encouraged to log in to the data-free SAYouth.mobi platform, which currently hosts over 2 000 companies.”

The session concluded with a unified commitment from the Presidential Employment Stimulus and other stakeholders to ensure public employment programmes lead to meaningful career transitions. By integrating these sectoral interventions, eThekweni is moving from isolated efforts to a collaborative ecosystem, ensuring that no young person is left behind.

OVER 240 GRADUATES MARK MAJOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MILESTONE

A WAVE of smiles, joy and celebration filled the Royal Durban Golf Club as the City celebrated an important milestone in youth empowerment and economic development. Over 240 graduates were recognised for completing a demanding training programme which forms part of the Municipality’s wider plan to build a skilled workforce that supports inclusive growth. The training was delivered in partnership with industry bodies such as the eThekweni Furniture Cluster, Durban Chemicals

Cluster, KwaZulu-Natal Clothing and Textile Cluster, and the Durban Automotive Cluster. These partnerships ensure that the skills taught match what workplaces need, improving job opportunities and supporting local industries.

At the heart of the programme is the Municipality’s focus on developing people as a key driver of economic growth.

This work forms part of the City’s Sakhe iTheku programme, which aims to boost industrial growth, support skills development, and create stronger economic connections.



A new wave of skilled, confident, and workplace-ready graduates took centre stage at the Royal Durban Golf Club, marking a proud milestone for the City’s Skills Development Programme.

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