ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

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ECONOMIC AND TOURISM BENEFITS FROM COMRADES MARATHON

THE City once again showcased its status as a premier sporting and tourism destination after hosting two major international events, the 99th Comrades Marathon and the GAS Motorshow International. The events attracted thousands of visitors, participants, exhibitors, and spectators from across South Africa and the world. Both events reaffirmed Durban's status as South Africa's premier events destination. They brought a significant boost to the local economy, with hotels, restaurants, transport operators, and tourism establishments experiencing increased activity throughout the event weekend.

For the Comrades Marathon, the City welcomed 21 600 participants and 65 000 spectators from across South Africa and around the globe, highlighting the event's role in driving economic growth and promoting Durban as a leading destination for major events.

The Comrades Marathon, which took on 14 June, began in Durban and concluded in Pietermaritzburg in an 'Up Run'. At the same time, the GAS Motorshow, hosted at Suncoast Casino on 13 and 14 June, attracted large crowds of around 30 000 over the two days of the event.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed the successful hosting of both events. "Hosting events of this magnitude attracts thousands of visitors who contribute to the local economy while showcasing Durban's world-class hospitality and tourism offerings."

The 99th Comrades Marathon took place on 14 June with 21 600 participants and 65 000 spectators watching the race.
INSET: Following the Comrades Marathon, a comprehensive post-event clean-up operation was implemented successfully.

To enhance the race-day experience, the Municipality also hosted a vibrant Comrades Marathon Fan Park at Kings Park Athletics Stadium for families to enjoy.

Following the successful marathon, a comprehensive post-event clean-up operation was implemented, ensuring that the route was restored to a clean and safe condition.

As part of a large-scale clean-up operation, teams were deployed along the route from the Durban City Hall to Cato Ridge to restore affected areas and ensure that the route remained clean and safe for residents and motorists.Through meticulous planning, teamwork, and dedication, the City successfully met this challenge while maintaining high standards of cleanliness throughout the route. A key focus of the operation was the recovery of recyclable materials in support of the City's waste diversion objectives. Teams collected and separated plastic bottles, water sachets, cardboard, paper, and other recyclable packaging materials discarded during the event. The clean-up operation resulted in the collection of 13 tonnes of general waste, while 28 tonnes of recyclable materials were recovered and diverted from landfill.

In terms of law enforcement, Metro Police Spokesperson Colonel Boysie Zungu confirmed the race day was well co-ordinated with no by-law infringements or arrests made. He said road closures were reopened as soon as possible to ensure the flow of traffic.

Both events reaffirmed Durban's status as a premier events and sporting destination while generating significant economic activity.

ASIMILE SIYAQHUBA- DRIVING ECONOMIC IMPACT THROUGH WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES

TO highlight the achievements made during the 2021 to 2026 term in office, the City is rolling out its Five-Year Service Delivery Milestone campaign under the theme Asmile Siyaqhuba: Resilience Through Adversity.

This week the spotlight is on the sporting facilities in the City.

The Commercial Sports Facilities Directorate plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the City's premier venues operate efficiently while contributing meaningfully to the local economy.

Responsible for the management and commercialisation of facilities such as the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium, the directorate oversees event hosting, venue operations, strategic partnerships, and revenue generation initiatives.

By attracting major sporting fixtures, concerts, exhibitions, and corporate events, the directorate maximises facility utilisation while supporting tourism, job creation, and economic growth within eThekwini Municipality.

Through strategic planning and strong stakeholder collaboration, the directorate ensures that the City's world-class venues remain sustainable, vibrant, and accessible to the community.

A key milestone during the five-year period was the successful securing of a dedicated capital budget to implement urgent remedial infrastructure and auxiliary upgrades at the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

These critical interventions ensured full compliance with the Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act and other applicable regulatory frameworks governing the safe operation and management of major sporting and recreational venues.

The upgrades have strengthened safety standards, enhanced operational efficiency, and ensured the stadium's continued readiness to host world-class events.

To enhance resilience and service continuity across municipal facilities, the directorate installed generators at all community stadia, including King Zwelithini, Princess Magogo, Sugar Ray Xulu, and the Mpumalanga Stadiums at a total investment of R6.8 million. This strategic investment ensures uninterrupted operations during power disruptions and enhances the reliability of these venues for both community and professional use.

At the Mpumalanga Stadium, floodlights were installed at a cost of R8 million, enabling the facility to host night matches and large-scale events, thereby expanding its commercial viability and community accessibility. During the 2023/24 financial year, the change rooms at the stadium were refurbished to meet modern standards. In addition, the directorate completed the refurbishment of change rooms at the Chatsworth Stadium, significantly improving athlete facilities and enhancing the overall user experience.

In the Umgeni precinct, the directorate installed temporary lighting, pre-cast fencing, and guard houses to secure the site in preparation for future utilisation, ensuring asset protection and regulatory compliance.

The implementation of the latest smart access solution at the Moses Mabhida Stadium has been a game changer for event organisers and ticketing agents. With the ability to scan all forms of ticketing, the system has significantly improved the visitor and client experience by offering seamless and efficient access control. This enhancement has increased entry speed while strengthening crowd safety and emergency management measures.

Over the five-year period, the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium has hosted several prestigious sporting events, reinforcing its status as a premier football and multi-purpose events venue. These include major fixtures in the Nedbank Cup, as well as other high-profile domestic and international football matches and large-scale entertainment events. The stadium continues to serve as a catalyst for economic activity, tourism growth, and the positioning of Durban as a leading sports and events destination.

AUDIT INDABA DRIVES CLEAN GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY EXCELLENCE

A COLLABORATIVE effort to advance clean audits and improve service delivery took centre stage at the Municipal Finance Management Act Audit Indaba held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre.

Municipal leaders, finance experts, auditors, and governance practitioners from across KwaZulu-Natal gathered for the two-day event to identify practical and strategic solutions aimed at strengthening governance, enhancing accountability and improving municipal performance.

It was hosted by the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) in partnership with the KZN Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, and the Auditor-General of South Africa.

The Indaba reinforced a shared commitment to achieving clean audits and strengthening financial governance as the foundation of credible, accountable and people-centred service delivery.

EThekwini Municipality Chief Financial Officer, Sandile Mnguni, said the engagement was critical in addressing persistent audit challenges and accelerating progress towards clean audits.

KwaZulu-Natal municipal leaders, finance professionals, and governance experts gathered at the MFMA Audit Indaba to strengthen financial governance, drive clean audits, and advance effective service delivery for communities.

"The latest Auditor-General's report shows that only 16 percent of municipalities achieved clean audits.

This highlights the urgency of addressing root causes and implementing practical solutions that deliver measurable improvements in service delivery," he said.

Mnguni emphasised that clean audits are a reflection of disciplined governance, sound financial management, and institutional integrity.

"Strong internal controls ensure that services are delivered to communities efficiently, restore public trust, and maximise value for every rand spent. Municipalities must eliminate non-compliance and consistently enforce consequence management," he added.

Held under the theme, 'Strengthening Financial Governance and Accountability to Achieve Sustainable Audit Outcomes', the Indaba moved beyond dialogue to action.

It provided a platform for municipalities to interrogate audit outcomes, address recurring challenges and identify strategies to improve financial management, compliance, and accountability.

Delegates highlighted the importance of strengthening internal controls, improving audit readiness, and embedding a culture of accountability throughout municipal institutions.

Sessions also focused on compliance with Generally Recognised Accounting Practice 104 and showcased best practices to support improved audit outcomes across municipalities.

SUPPLIERS URGED TO USE ONLINE INVOICING PLATFORM

SUPPLIERS and service providers are urged to utilise the City's online invoicing platform on the eThekwini Supplier Portal (ESP) to familiarise themselves with the process to ensure they face no hurdles when it comes to payments.

Suppliers must first be registered on the ESP, in order to access the online invoicing functionality. It allows invoice payments to be approved online, eliminating the need for manual intervention in the current process.

The new platform enables electronic tracking of invoices, enhances storage and retrieval of documents, automatically flags invoices that are not processed within the required timeframe, and reduces the risk of fraudulent activities through strengthened security measures.

It also allows suppliers to submit invoices for work done against open purchase and contract orders with the system populating required details on the platform.

Online invoicing advances the Municipality towards a fully paperless invoice approval process. Following a comprehensive review of internal controls, standard operating procedures, potential system enhancements and considering the high volume of invoices processed daily, there was a strong need for the platform to be created.

All suppliers are urged to create profiles on the eThekwini Supplier Portal, to ensure they are not left behind. Information on training can be found on the City's official and verified social media platforms. A step-by-step guide can also be found on www.durban.gov.za Suppliers with valid payment queries can email Accountspay.ewfqueries@durban.gov.za

For more information visit https://ethekwinisupplierportal.durban.gov.za

YOUTH RECEIVE DIGITAL BOOST

THE City's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Division, in partnership with Wear Your Brand and Boxer, hosted a one-day Digital Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Masterclass.

The session aimed to equip youth-owned businesses with practical digital and enterprise development skills.

The masterclass, which forms part of the City's ongoing commitment to youth development and support, took place on 11 June at the Moses Kotane Research Institute, bringing together entrepreneurs for a high-impact capacity building session, networking, and business support.

A highlight of the programme was the handover of 16 commercial printers sponsored by Boxer. Beneficiaries were selected from the 28th Durban Business Fair held in May, after their businesses were identified in need of the equipment. The printers are intended to help the small businesses improve efficiency, strengthen record keeping, and scale their operations.

Stakeholders from eThekwini Municipality, Wear Your Brand, and Boxer joined youth entrepreneurs at the Digital Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Masterclass.

The masterclass unpacked a range of topics including digital literacy and tools, entrepreneurship support programmes, and introduction to Artificial Intelligence coding and robotics. It also covered marketing of skills, personal branding, and youth bankability.

Silindela Sithole, co-founder of Ndayiza Enterprise, said the printer will significantly improve daily operations. "We offer internet café services. The printer will help boost productivity and improve how we serve our clients," said Sithole.

Khungeka Gojo from eThekwini Municipality's MSME Development Division said the initiative reflects the City's commitment to strengthening youth entrepreneurship through practical tools, skills development, and strategic partnerships that unlock economic opportunities.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT-IN-AID FUNDING OPEN

THE Social and Community Development Directorate encourages non-profit organisations and civil society organisations to submit proposals for Grant-in-Aid funding for the 2026/27 financial year. Applications for the sundry grant funding opened on 1 June and close on 31 July 2026.

Grant-in-Aid Acting Manager Sandile Ngwane said the sundry grant funding was focused on supporting organisations servicing disadvantaged communities.

"Our focus is primarily on organisations that aid service delivery as we believe that non-profit organisations are an extension of government. We also pay special attention to organisations assisting children, women, the elderly, and people with special challenges." He said Grant-in-Aid funding assists organisations with financial or material support to continue their work in communities.

Applications forms are available on the City's website, www.durban.gov.za, as well as the Social and Community Development Directorate Office at 26 Matthews Meyiwa, 6th floor, Greyville and councillors offices.

Ngwane said organisations applying for funding must ensure that all required documentation is attached. He said they will receive an acknowledgement of receipt upon submission of their application.

For further enquiries contact the Grant-in-Aid Office on 031 322 2014.

TRANSFORMATIVE RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME DELIVERS RESULTS

ETHEKWINI Municipality's Transformative River Management Programme (TRMP) is demonstrating measurable success in restoring the Palmiet River in the New Germany/Pinetown corridor. Following proven outcomes in the Quarry Road West area, the programme has been expanded to additional locations, driving both environmental rehabilitation and local economic development.

The TRMP is designed to strengthen the City's resilience to climate change through the restoration of degraded river systems. By applying nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation, the programme improves water quality and flow while enhancing ecosystem services. This integrated approach also supports social and economic upliftment through circular and green economy principles.

Key interventions focus on reducing environmental risks by removing alien invasive species, clearing solid waste, and mitigating blockages that contribute to flooding. These actions directly improve water security, quality, and overall river health.

A central component of the programme is its employment and skills development model. Local youth are recruited and trained as "Enviro Champs," contributing to river maintenance while gaining practical experience. This initiative aligns with the national Social Employment Programme and responds to youth unemployment.

Currently employing 19 Enviro Champs—of whom more than half are women—the project has already cleared over 20 hectares of invasive vegetation and replaced it with indigenous plant species.

WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY CELEBRATIONS

TO heighten awareness on hydrography, eThekwini Municipality in partnership with the South African Navy and various maritime stakeholders, will host World Hydrography Day celebrations on 20 and 21 June.

World Hydrography Day, established by the International Hydrographic Organisation, is celebrated annually to raise awareness on the importance of hydrography in ensuring safe navigation, protecting the marine environment, supporting maritime security, and enabling sustainable ocean development.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed the partnership saying the Municipality fully supports the objective of advancing awareness of hydrography's critical role in maritime safety, ocean governance, environmental protection and sustainable economic development.

"The observance of World Hydrography Day in the City resonates with our strategic priorities on the Blue Economy, marine science and innovation, and the strengthening of South Africa's maritime capacity," he said.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the World Hydrography Day celebrations. Entry is free.

World Hydrography Day celebrations will be hosted in eThekwini Municipality in partnership with the South African Navy and various other maritime stakeholders.

DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

• Open ship visits and South African Navy displays and defence industry exhibitions

South African Navy vessels will be open for the public to visit.

Venue: N-Shed, Port of Durban

Dates and times:

Saturday, 20 June 2026: 9am to 4pm

Sunday, 21 June 2026: 9am to 2pm

• South African Navy Band Community Concert

The South African Navy Band will have a community concert. Entry is free; however, members of the public will be required to obtain tickets.

Free tickets for the concert can be booked via Quicket.

Date: Saturday, 20 June 2026

Time: 2pm to 5pm (Gates open at 12pm)

Venue: Maritime School of Excellence

• Freedom of the City Parade

The World Hydrography Day celebrations will culminate in a Freedom of the City Parade through the streets of Durban.

Date: Sunday, 21 June 2026

Time: 10am

Venue: Anton Lembede Street

FOOD SAFETY DAY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Officials, stakeholders, and uMlazi BB-Section residents came together to commemorate World Food Safety Day.

THE City's Environmental Health Quality Control Directorate's Food Safety Division commemorated World Food Safety Day with a successful awareness campaign held at the uMlazi BB Container Park on 12 June. The event brought together community members, food business operators, and other stakeholders to promote food safety and prevent food-borne diseases.

Held under the theme, 'From Burden to Solutions: Safe Food Everywhere', the campaign focused on educating residents and local businesses on the importance of safe food handling, storage, and preparation. Participants received practical information on the relationship between food handling and the spread of diseases, as well as measures to reduce risks.

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

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