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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ETHEKWINI'S SOUND FINANCIAL HEALTH ENDORSED BY NATIONAL TREASURY

ETHEKWINI Municipality remains in a strong financial position, which is a positive indicator for sustained service delivery and investor confidence.

This affirmation comes from National Treasury's recent assessment, presented during a two-day Mayoral Lekgotla, held to review the Municipality's performance.

Led by Chief Director for Local Government and Budget Analysis, Jan Hattingh, the Treasury team confirmed that eThekwini's financial standing is sound, based on a review of financial reports and audited statements.

The findings show consistent revenue growth and highlight the need for practical measures to maintain long-term sustainability.

Key indicators of eThekwini's financial strength include:

- Timely payment of creditors within 30 days
- Adoption of a fully-funded budget
- Revenue exceeding expenditure, resulting in a budget surplus
- Employee-related costs at 25.3%, well within the Treasury's 25–40% benchmark
- Capital budget allocation at 11%, aligning with the 10–20% norm and reflecting solid infrastructure investment.

Additional highlights from National Treasury:

- The Municipality is not reliant on grant funding, enhancing service delivery resilience
- EThekwini holds a favourable credit rating, enabling strategic borrowing for infrastructure-led growth.

National Treasury further noted that reducing fruitless and wasteful expenditure, along with curbing water losses, could position eThekwini as a national leader in financial governance and asset management.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed the findings and reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to sound financial stewardship.

"This performance shows we have what it takes to lead. We are determined to surpass all metros, and we won't take our foot off the pedal," said Mayor Xaba.

During the two-day strategic planning session, Mayor Xaba assessed progress on service delivery plans and budget implementation. The meeting, attended by political leadership, senior officials from National Treasury and the Public Service Commission, also tackled current revenue management challenges and proposing new revenue enhancement strategies.

Addressing the gathering, Mayor Xaba said the session's primary focus was to improve Municipal performance and accountability.

"Another critical issue we will focus on is implementing audit action plans to address the Auditor-General's findings," Mayor Xaba said.

He added that he was encouraged by the Municipality's progress in reducing audit findings, putting it on track for a clean audit. The Mayor emphasised strengthening consequence management so officials are held accountable.

"I strongly believe there is a close relationship between consequence management and service delivery," Mayor Xaba said.

Notable achievements in improving audit outcomes include over 90 percent of suppliers being paid within 30 days. The Mayor urged officials to diligently address contract and project management and procurement planning issues.

On improving performance, eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele said the Municipality has developed a new outcome-based performance management tool. He said this tool ensures officials set clear targets to achieve actual results.

MAYOR XABA STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE SAFETY IN UMHLANGA

IN A collaborative effort to curb crime in uMhlanga, eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba convened an urgent meeting with stakeholders to discuss strategies to improve policing in the area.

The engagement, held at the Durban City Hall on 7 October, was attended by the uMhlanga Ratepayers Association, Community Policing Forum, and the police.

Commending the collaboration, Mayor Xaba said crime prevention required public-private partnerships to provide effective policing.

"Working together with all relevant stakeholders can assist us in combating criminality as we also explore the use of technology for increased enforcement. Let us ensure that we do not work in silos, as this will reduce our capacity in fighting crime," he said.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and senior management held a meeting with various stakeholders of uMhlanga to strengthen collaboration on safety issues in the area.

While discussions are ongoing for permanent solutions and an effective strategy to combat crime, Mayor Xaba pledged to ensure increased police visibility and enforcement of by-laws in the area.

UMhlanga is a key node for tourism, development and investment, which is critical for local economic growth.

Responding to the crime-fighting commitment, Chairperson of the uMhlanga Ratepayers' Association Theresa Maclarty said the engagement was fruitful and the interventions will contribute to the growth and development of the area.

CITY RECORDS POSITIVE IMPACT AFTER HOSTING THE FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

ETHEKWINI Municipality has expressed satisfaction with the successful hosting of the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifier match between Bafana Bafana and Zimbabwe, held on 10 October at the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

The match drew an impressive crowd, demonstrating the City's continued ability to host major international sporting events efficiently, safely, and in a manner that stimulates the local economy.

The total direct impact on the City's economy indicates that the event generated an estimated R54 million with a total GDP of about R80 million, including the creation of about 245 jobs.

There was also increased business for local accommodation establishments, restaurants, transport operators, and informal traders.

The City commends the collaborative effort between law enforcement agencies, stadium management, emergency services, and the transport sector, which ensured seamless event operations, minimal traffic disruptions, and a clean and secure environment before and after the match.

The successful hosting of the Bafana Bafana fixture once again cements the Moses Mabhida Stadium's status as a premier multi-purpose venue capable of handling high-capacity events, while delivering a memorable experience for fans and visitors.

Since January 2025, the stadium has hosted a variety of Premier Soccer League fixtures, major cup fixtures and international friendlies, further boosting visitor numbers and brand visibility for the City.

Collectively, these events have contributed an estimated R320 million to the local economy through tourism, hospitality, and small business activity.

The Municipality continues to work closely with stakeholders to ensure that major events not only promote sports tourism but also provides lasting social and economic benefits for local communities.

The City further extends its appreciation to all residents, visitors, and supporters who contributed to the success of the event by adhering to regulations, using public transport, and keeping the City clean.

ETHEKWINI AND MBABANE STRENGTHEN TIES TOWARDS A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

ETHEKWINI Municipality is strengthening its working relationship with the Municipal Council of Mbabane from Eswatini, paving the way for a strategic alliance that promises to advance shared growth and regional collaboration. Following a strategic sister-city discussion, held on 8 October at the Durban City Hall, both cities are deepening engagement on a transformative partnership focused on five key areas of cooperation.

Led by eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele, the eThekwini delegation comprised of executives from the International an Intergovernmental Relations and the Economic Development Directorates. They met with Gcinekile Fakudze, Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Council of Mbabane, to chart a roadmap for collaboration. The discussions focused on economic development and trade, municipal policing and safety, urban planning and infrastructure, knowledge exchange and capacity building as well as culture, arts, and tourism.

Speaking on the engagement, Mbhele said: "The two cities share complementary strengths. Mbabane, as Eswatini's administrative and financial hub, anchors the nation's economic activity and enjoys a strong tourism base due to its proximity to wildlife reserves. EThekwini on the other hand, boasts a diverse, port-driven economy with a thriving cultural and tourism sector. Together, these strengths provide fertile ground for mutual development and innovation."

EThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele and Gcinekile Fakudze, Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Council of Mbabane, during a strategic partnership discussion held at the Durban City Hall. The engagement marked a significant step toward formalising a sister-city relationship between eThekwini and Mbabane.

Mbhele added that the recently introduced direct air route, operating two times a week between King Mswati III International Airport and King Shaka International Airport, further demonstrates growing connectivity and the potential to expand trade, tourism, and investment opportunities between the two cities. The route was launched in 2023.

As preparatory meetings continue, both municipalities are aligning their priorities toward the formalisation of a sister-city agreement. This milestone will formalise cooperation in areas such as smart city planning, safety management, and joint tourism promotion setting the foundation for a long-term partnership that will benefit residents from both the City and Mbabane.

CITY'S RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA CONTINUES TO GROW

THE City will continue to work closely with Indonesia for agreed areas of cooperation.

Acting Director of the International and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate Ntokozo Sibiya said the City is reinforcing mutual linkages with various countries, including Indonesia, for the benefit of eThekwini residents.

The relationship the City has with Indonesia was signified by the establishment of an Indonesian Consulate Office in eThekwini, a sign of the productive relationship and cooperation between the two countries.

onorary Consul of Indonesia, Ebrahim Patel serves as the link for the two countries to assist them to grow in several aspects.

Sibiya said City leadership will be working closely with Honorary Patel on agreed areas of cooperation.

"This close cooperation will continue to rebuild the economy and to achieve developmental goals."

Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala said it is important to preserve beneficial relations with international communities.

"South Africa has a long-standing relationship with the Republic of Indonesia as we share common values of prosperity and safety for all. Indonesia is a strategic country to develop close ties in education and economic stimulation as it is known for trade and social engagement. As we further cement working relationship with Indonesia, we are creating opportunities for economic and social growth in both countries," said Councillor Madlala.

INFORMAL ECONOMY SUMMIT PROMOTES COMPLIANCE AND SUPPORT

THE two-day Informal Economy Summit was impactful and empowering, reflecting the City's commitment to placing traders at the centre of decision-making and development. Held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 7 and 8 October, the summit gave traders a voice in reviewing the Informal Trade and Retail Market By-law, ensuring those who experience street trading daily help shape the regulations that govern them.

Central to the discussions was compliance as a pathway to empowerment. This was exemplified when 11 traders, previously operating illegally under the Workshop Bridge, were awarded trading permits for Centrum Site. The site offers shelter, 24-hour security and cleaning services.

Traders proudly received certificates and business support vouchers from eThekwini Municipality and stakeholders during the 4th eThekwini Informal Traders Summit held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 7 to 8 October.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said enforcement and opportunity go hand in hand.

"We build trust and grow our economy when traders operate within the law."

Traders were also reminded that over 500 vacant trading stalls across eThekwini are open for application until 24 October, inviting new businesses to operate legally. For more information to apply for a stall, call 031 902 2024 or 031 322 9690.

The summit also offered funding and empowerment opportunities. The Department of Small Business Development highlighted its R500 million Spaza Shop Support Fund, which offers grants and flexible financing to township and rural shop owners. Applicants can apply online at www.spazashopfund.co.za. Through the Informal and Micro Enterprise Development Programme, over 700 KZN small businesses have received nearly R10 million in support.

DURBAN ICC LEADS THE WAY IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

THE Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) has taken a bold step toward sustainability by retrofitting its entire lighting system with energy-efficient LED technologies.

This marks a significant milestone in the City's commitment to climate-conscious infrastructure. This transformation was spearheaded by Electrical Building Services under the Architecture Division in partnership with the Climate Change Mitigation Division. It is part of a broader Municipal initiative to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions across public buildings.

The retrofit at the Durban ICC is the first phase of an energy efficiency programme aligned with the Durban Climate Change Strategy.

Mbali Govuzela, Senior Manager of Electrical Building Services, said the Durban ICC upgrade included the installation of LED high bay fittings in halls one to six, LED downlighters, and LED flat panels for house lights—all integrated with full dimming capability. Occupancy sensors were also installed to further enhance energy savings.

DRIVING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE FILM INDUSTRY

THE Durban Film Office hosted an impactful industry development workshop, to empower local artists. Sessions on funding opportunities for the upcoming Durban Film Office Micro-Budget Film and Development Fund call-out cycle, intellectual education, and film classification and ratings were held. Participants gained valuable insights into copyright, ownership and the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission's role in regulating royalties. The sessions further unpacked how collecting societies distribute royalties, highlighting the importance of mastering rights.

The Durban Film Office hosted an industry development workshop, uniting creatives from across the City.

Artists are encouraged to understand contracts, negotiate ownership, and secure their futures through royalty and reversion rights.

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

Email: news.desk@durban.gov.za

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR: Mandla Nsele, Director of Marketing and Communications **CONTENT EDITOR:** Nondumiso Mathomane **SUB-EDITOR:** Charmel Payet • **CONTRIBUTORS:** Nonduduzo Ngcongo, Khaya Sengani, Sohana Singh, and Lethiwe Ngcobo • **PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Thuli Dlamini and Saneli Mthalane • **DESIGN & LAYOUT:** Nosipho Mbuthuma