ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

21 October 2025 [Issue 436]

CITY READY TO HOST 1.3 MILLION VISITORS OVER FESTIVE SEASON

PLANS to ensure the safety of residents and visitors as well as the City's countless tourism offerings were highlighted during the launch of the eThekwini summer season campaign. The City's readiness to welcome an anticipated 1.3 million visitors over the festive season was highlighted during a vibrant launch which took place at the scenic Isithumba Village, nestled in the Valley of a Thousand Hills.

The venue provided the perfect backdrop for the summer season campaign launch, showcasing the rich, natural beauty of the City.

The launch was held under the theme; 'Visit Durban: Endless Waves of Tranquillity', showcasing that Durban will be pulling out all the stops to ensure an unforgettable summertime, further positioning the City as a premier holiday destination.

Delivering the keynote address at the launch, Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said the summer season campaign invites the world to experience Durban.

"We are expecting about 1.3 million visitors to the City this festive season, a powerful boost for the local economy. Their spending is projected to inject over R341 million in direct impact and a total of R845 million to the City's GDP. This influx will help create more than 15 000 jobs and generate over R630 million in taxes, clear proof of how tourism drives growth and opportunity for residents," said Councillor Ntuli.

Durban's summer season campaign was launched amid much fanfare on 16 October with traditional dancers and musicians showcasing the City's talent. The launch was held at the Isithumba Village in the picturesque Valley of a Thousand Hills.
Joining in the festivities was Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli, who unpacked the City's plans to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday for residents and visitors.

The City continues to attract both local and international visitors, with strong recovery figures from earlier this year indicating 186 000 new international arrivals to Durban and 2.8 million domestic trips, contributing nearly R5 billion to the economy.

These results reaffirm that Durban remains one of the most desirable destinations in South Africa.

Key catalytic projects continue to take shape and play a vital role in sustaining tourism and driving long-term economic growth, expanding the City's capacity to host visitors, investors, and world-class events. Councillor Ntuli welcomed the renewal of Durban's hosting rights for Africa's Travel Indaba until 2030, saying this was one of the key events which cements the City's position as a leading tourism and business events destination on the continent.

Outlining the summer season plans, Councillor Ntuli said the Metro Police was working closely with the South African Police Service and other law enforcement agencies to heighten safety and security, particularly over the festive season.

There will be increased police visibility in tourism precinct areas, with more lifeguards deployed to Municipal beaches and pools, and trained child minders along the beachfront.

The rollout of smart policing technology including CCTV monitoring, bodycams, and dashcams will help ensure visitors enjoy a safe and peaceful holiday.

MAYOR STRENGTHENS RELATIONS WITH CHINA

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba was recently in the People's Republic of China as part of building relations with the country. This comes as the City has several sister city agreements with Chinese cities including Xiamen and Ningde. EThekwini Municipality also recently took an exciting new step by signing a Letter of Intent with the City of Xi'an in the Shaanxi Province.

As part of his visit to China, Mayor Xaba delivered an address during a visit to the Shaanxi Construction Holding Group saying he was proud to represent Durban and South Africa.

"This visit represents another important step in strengthening the long-standing friendship and cooperation between Durban and the People's Republic of China. Durban has built strong partnerships with several Chinese cities through sister city and friendship agreements."

He said during his visit, they had the opportunity to tour the Chanba Inland Port and the surrounding precinct, where they witnessed first-hand the impressive scale and efficiency of the inland port's logistics operations, as well as the integrated approach to urban planning, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba visited the People's Republic of China where he engaged with stakeholders to encourage partnerships with Durban and explore investment opportunities.

"The innovation and the green practices we observed deeply inspired us, as Durban also works to modernise and green its own urban and port infrastructure. We believe that cooperation between our cities must go beyond business and infrastructure — it should also build friendships, people-to-people exchanges, and cultural understanding. These are the foundations of true international partnership and sustainable cooperation," said Mayor Xaba.

He said the Shaanxi Construction Holding Group stands as one of China's most accomplished enterprises. Ranked among the Fortune Global 500 and the ENR Top 250 Global Contractors, the Group has demonstrated global excellence in engineering, industrial investment, transport, petrochemicals, and green energy. Its footprint in more than 45 countries reflects a commitment to quality, innovation, and partnership.

"In Durban we are implementing major infrastructure upgrades, urban regeneration projects, and housing developments, to make us a global, resilient, and sustainable City," he added.

Mayor Xaba said there are tremendous opportunities for cooperation between Durban and the Shaanxi Construction Holding Group and other Chinese enterprises.

"We invite you to engage with Durban's business community, explore partnerships, and become part of our City's transformation journey."

NEW DIGITAL SELF-SERVICE PLATFORM TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY SERVICES

THE Energy Management Directorate has launched a new self-service platform aimed at providing free, mobile access to essential electricity services.

The service, available by dialling *134*3532#, allows customers to interact and access electricity services directly from their mobile phones, without the need for airtime or data. This platform forms part of a broader digital reform strategy designed to modernise operations and improve customer service delivery.

Deputy Director for Customer and Retail Services, Leshan Moodliar, said the launch of the platform marked the introduction of the Directorate's fourth digital service channel.

"This easy to use, zero-rated platform will give more customers the opportunity to engage and interact with our services," said Moodliar.

The initiative is a key milestone under the Directorate's flagship Customer and Retail Services Strategy Implementation Project, which focuses on improving operational efficiency, governance, and customer engagement through digitisation. "Digitisation is central to the Directorate's reform strategy, and we are committed to continuous service delivery enhancements to ensure we continually improve our level of service," added Moodliar.

The launch of the free mobile platform follows other successful service enhancements, including streamlined fault logging and digital electricity meter reading uploads. Other additional and exciting digital initiatives in the pipeline include online service applications, which will allow customers to apply for a new electricity connection, request a capacity upgrade, or request a meter change through a secure online portal. This portal will allow customers to complete applications without the need to visit a Municipal service centre.

TWENTY TRUCKS FINED FOR OPERATING WITH FRAUDULENT CERTIFICATES

TWENTY trucks were issued with hefty fines after they were found to be operating with fraudulent dangerous goods certificates during a freight enforcement operation.
A further three trucks were impounded, while one truck driver was arrested.
Spearheaded by the eThekwini Transport Authority's (ETA) Road Safety Branch, the blitz was conducted on 14 October.
The multi-agency operation, held along South Coast Road and Solomon Mahlangu Drive, included the Metro Police, Fire Services Directorate, Border Management Authority, and the Road Traffic Inspectorate.
A total of 36 trucks were stopped and checked during the operation. Officials checked vehicles for outstanding traffic fines, fire safety equipment, and fire permits (dangerous goods certificates issued by the Fire Services Directorate).
Work permits and passports of foreign truck drivers were also scrutinised.
ETA Road Safety Senior Manager Ravina Sewlal said the operation demonstrated the effectiveness of multi-agency collaboration in improving road safety. "The discovery of 20 trucks operating with fraudulent dangerous goods certificates is deeply concerning and highlights the need for continued vigilance," Sewlal said. She said the operation formed part of ETA's ongoing road safety and compliance programme, which runs throughout the year and not only during Transport Month.
"These operations target high-risk areas identified through traffic and crash data. I commend our Road Safety staff and partners for their dedication and professionalism," she added.
Road Safety Practitioners will continue with similar operations across eThekwini, focusing on hotspots identified through data analysis.

A freight enforcement operation was conducted on 14 October to ensure trucks comply with regulations, such as weight limits, permits, and safety standards. A total of 36 trucks were stopped and checked. Of these, 20 trucks were issued with fines, three were impounded and one driver was arrested.

DRIVING TRANSFORMATION IN THE CHEMICAL CLUSTER

THE Durban Chemicals Cluster (DCC) hosted its Annual General Meeting at Toyota Wessels Institute of Manufacturing Studies on 17 October, celebrating a year of meaningful progress.
Attended by the Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli and senior City officials, the event highlighted DCC's role in driving inclusive industrial growth. Now in its fifth year, the DCC Accelerator has empowered over 90 small and medium-sized enterprises, created jobs, and strengthened local supply chains. Over 250 training modules were delivered to enhance productivity and competitiveness, while the newly launched Talent Pipeline Programme addresses youth unemployment through critical industry skills. The Cluster continues to drive transformation, support access to capital, and enable high-impact partnerships. This has cemented their role as a leader in inclusive industrial growth, enterprise development, and skills alignment within the chemicals sector.

The Durban Chemcial Cluster hosted its Annual General Meeting to celebrate a year of success. Attending the meeting was Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli, on the far right, and other City officials.

ETHEKWINI INFORMAL TRADE FACILITIES HAILED FOR ADDRESSING UNEMPLOYMENT

MANDISA Gwexa from Mariannhill is proof that opportunity and determination can transform lives. Once unemployed, she turned her circumstances into motivation and today she is an award-winning entrepreneur and employer. After her internship in the private sector ended, Gwexa decided to create her own opportunity after seeing informal trading spaces advertised by eThekwini Municipality. In 2021, she started Mandisa Nailed It, located in KwaNdengezi, a beauty salon specialising in nails, hair, and eyelashes.

EThekwini Municipality allocated her a formal trading space through its Informal Economy Support Programme following her application.

She praised the Municipality for continuous training on business compliance, access to funding, and mentorship.

She now employs eight people, six full-time and two part-time and has trained more than 40 aspiring nail technicians, many of whom have started their own businesses. Her impact recently earned her the Business Youth-Owned Informal Business Award at the 2025 eThekwini Municipality Informal Trade Awards.

"Winning this award has further elevated my business and has shown me that hard work pays off. I want others to apply for the opportunities government provides."

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said stories of success like Gwexa's shows the value of investing in the informal economy and small businesses.

Mandisa Gwexa founder of Mandisa Nailed It, turned opportunity into success. After receiving a trading space from eThekwini Municipality, her salon has grown and she now employs eight staff.

"When small businesses thrive, communities thrive which is why we support them," he said.

The City has advertised new trading stalls, with applications closing on 24 October. Call 031 322 8672 for more information.

DESIGNERS TO SHINE AT MTC WINDHOEK FASHION WEEK

ETHEKWINI Municipality continues to expose local fashion designers to international markets to ensure their growth. Preparations are underway for two Durban designers to showcase their talent at the prestigious MTC Windhoek Fashion Week taking place in Namibia in November.

Mzwandile Mathonsi, Durban Designer of the Year and head of the ladieswear brand ZWANDYY, along with Thami Ngubeni, winner of the Best Menswear Collection Award and head of Monarch Detailer, will represent Durban. Both designers were recognised at the recent Durban Fashion Fair (DFF) Recognition Awards.

The MTC Windhoek Fashion Week will take place from 5 to 8 November at the Maerua Mall in Windhoek and is Namibia's largest fashion event, attracting designers from across Africa.

The participation of the two local designers is part of a strategic partnership between eThekwini Municipality and Windhoek, formalised through a memorandum of agreement that designates Windhoek as an official sister city to Durban.

The collaboration includes a fashion designer exchange programme and strategic stakeholder engagements.

Mzwandile Mathonsi, head of the ladieswear brand ZWANDYY and recent winner of the Durban Designer of the Year at this year's DFF Recognition Awards, will fly the City's flag high at the MTC Windhoek Fashion Week.

Both Mathonsi and Ngubeni are graduates of the DFF Mentorship Programme, an initiative under the eThekwini Municipality Fashion Development Programme.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli expressed pride at the designers' achievements.

"Their success highlights the impact of the Municipality's support in nurturing talent."

Ngubeni said: "I am thankful to the Municipality for providing me with such opportunities."

Meanwhile, Mathonsi added: "Exposure like this contributes immensely to growing our brands."

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 **WRITERS:** Gugu Mdlalose, Sibongakonke Mbatha, Jessie Singh, Nonduduzo Ngcongo, and Lethiwe Ngcobo **DESIGN & LAYOUT:** Zama Zwane **PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Nonjabulo Chamane and Pumla Khwela