ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

28 October 2025 [ssue 437]

MAYOR XABA UNVEILS R3.6 BILLION BEACHWOOD COASTAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

The Beachwood Coastal Estate, a Durban North development projected to create over 4 000 temporary and permanent jobs, was launched by eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba on 24 October.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba officially launched the R3.6 billion Beachwood Coastal Estate development, a transformative project set to redefine the skyline of Durban North and further position the City as a premier investment destination.

Describing the development as a "historic milestone and catalytic project", Mayor Xaba said the investment demonstrates that Durban is open for business and continues to evolve as a major construction hub.

"The Beachwood Coastal Estate is the outcome of what can be achieved through government and private sector collaboration. I would like to congratulate developers Edstan Group, eThekwini Municipality, and the provincial government for their partnership in bringing this project to life," said Mayor Xaba.

The launch, on 24 October, was attended by the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs Reverend Musa Zondi, Co-chair of the eThekwini Presidential Working Group Mike Mabuyakhulu, CEO of Trade and Investment in KwaZulu-Natal Sihle Ngcamu, and Durban Chamber of Commerce CEO Palesa Phiri.

Beachwood Coastal Estate forms part of eThekwini Municipality's R217 billion portfolio of catalytic projects being implemented over the next five years.

The estate introduces a new benchmark in eco-conscious living, featuring freehold stands, luxurious drive-up apartments, and opulent duplexes designed with sustainability in mind.

Currently, the development contributes approximately R3.6 million per annum in Municipal rates.

Upon completion, this figure is expected to increase to around R100 million annually.

During construction, the project is projected to create 1 500 temporary jobs, while 2 500 permanent jobs will be sustained once the estate is fully operational.

CONFIDENCE SOARS AS KZN SECURES R100 BILLION IN INVESTMENT PLEDGES

The two-day KwaZulu-Natal Investment Conference and Exhibition, held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 22 and 23 October, was a resounding success. It further positioned the province and the City as a premier investment hub.

KWAZULU-NATAL'S investment ambitions reached new heights as the province surpassed its R95 billion target, securing R100.1 billion in pledges at the recent two-day KZN Investment Conference and Exhibition. Held on 22 and 23 October at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, the event was led by Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN) in partnership with Invest Durban under the theme 'Building a resilient, inclusive and globally competitive KwaZulu-Natal'.

The conference was led by KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thami Ntuli, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs Reverend Musa Zondi, Co-chair of the eThekwini Presidential Working Group Mike Mabuyakhulu, and Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli.

TIKZN Chief Executive Officer Sihle Ngcamu announced that investor confidence had exceeded expectations as businesses and investors bid across multiple sectors. The conference attracted hundreds of delegates from businesses, investors, and financial institutions.

Premier Ntuli hailed the milestone as "a defining chapter in KwaZulu-Natal's investment story where vision met delivery and ambition exceeded expectation. saying: "This shows our shared commitment to build a resilient, inclusive, and accountable province."

The R100.1 billion pledges, covering renewable energy, manufacturing, tourism, agro-processing, and property development, are projected to create over 60 000 direct and 240 000 indirect jobs. Major projects include Colenso Power, Mulilo Energy Holdings, Zimbali Lakes, Salt Rock City, Seaton Estate, Princess Mkabayi Mall, and the Umdoni Point Coastal Forest Estate.

Councillor Ntuli said: "Hosting this conference reaffirms the City as a trade and investment gateway."

RESURGENCE CONFERENCE BOOSTS DURBAN'S ECONOMY AND GLOBAL STANDING

THE City's Economic Development and Planning Committee was presented with an impact report revealing the significant economic benefits of hosting the reSURGEnce Conference Durban. The report was presented during the Committee's monthly meeting on 24 October.

The post-event report showcased that the conference not only positioned Durban as an investment-ready African city, but also made a substantial contribution to the City's coffers.

Held from 20 to 24 September at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, it was revealed that the conference attracted 1 718 delegates from 38 countries, including the United States of America, and featured 42 national and international speakers and 130 exhibitors.

Economic assessments revealed that the conference generated R24 million in direct spending, R36 million in indirect and induced benefits, and a total contribution of R60 million to Durban's Gross Domestic Product. The conference supported 108 jobs and generated approximately R4.5 million in taxes, demonstrating a strong return on investment for the City.

Highlights of the conference included the Pan-African Dialogue, business-to-business engagements, and the formation of the reSURGEnce Business Network - a platform designed to strengthen partnerships between local entrepreneurs, investors, and the diaspora.

The conference also focused on key sectors such as property development, tourism, manufacturing, and agriculture, providing investors with a roadmap for high-return opportunities and inclusive economic growth.

Commenting on the findings, Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "The success of the reSURGEnce Conference demonstrates the power of strategic partnerships and forward-thinking leadership. It has reaffirmed Durban's resilience and global competitiveness while bringing tangible economic benefits. Through such platforms we attract investment and build pathways for prosperity."

The Committee commended the outcomes of the conference and noted that the insights presented will inform future strategies to enhance Durban's position as a destination for business, investment, and growth.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BUILDS SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

Approximately 15 young business owners are gaining essential skills through the 18-month Higher Certificate in Business Administration course, NQF Level 5 at the Newbridge Graduate Institute.

THE public-private partnership between eThekwini Municipality and Newbridge Graduate Institute is bearing fruit. The partnership commenced from the North Regional Durban Business Fair empowerment sessions held earlier this year, where 15 emerging businesses were awarded Business Administration bursaries. The successful applicants had to pitch their business ideas to a panel.

Fifteen young entrepreneurs are currently enrolled for a Higher Certificate in Business Administration, NQF Level 5 at Newbridge Graduate Institute.

The18-month course commenced in August and will be completed in February 2027. Learners attend classes three times a week at the Highway Campus in Pinetown, with practical lessons conducted within their own businesses.

For Lungelo Gwala, 24, founder of Miss Elle Bakery in KwaMashu, the course has been transformative. "This programme is teaching me how to be unique and successful in the competitive bakery industry," she shared.

Similarly, Thobani Gumede, 23, of Thumu Dane Deliveries, said: "I'm already implementing marketing strategies that I've learnt, and I'm exploring funding to expand my business by acquiring another motorbike. Attending the North Regional Durban Business Fair and participating in the business pitch changed my business journey completely."

Nathi Ndlovu, Stakeholder Relations Manager at Newbridge Graduate Institute, emphasised the significance of public-private partnerships in business development. "This programme equips learners with the knowledge and skills to run sustainable, profitable businesses."

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "By implementing the skills they have learnt, these emerging business owners are well on their way to succes."

SUPPORT FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

RECOGNISING the success of two of the City's flagship business development programmes held in September, the Economic Development and Planning Committee has announced that prize funding for the 2026 Durban Business Fair Excellence Awards will be doubled. This move aims to further empower emerging enterprises and strengthen Durban's position as a premier African hub for business and fashion.

The announcement was made during the Committee's meeting on 24 October. The impact of the two flagship programmes, namely the 14th Durban Fashion Fair which took place from 17 to 19 September, and the Durban Business Fair (DBF) Excellence Awards held on 26 September, was presented to Committee members through a post-event report. A total of 23 winners across the DBF Excellence Awards, which included the Durban Fashion Fair Recognition Awards and Lion's Den competition, received enterprise development support valued at R520 000.

It was recently announced that the prize funding for the 2026 Durban Business Fair Excellence Awards will be doubled, assisting more businesses to grow.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "These programmes are key drivers of inclusive economic growth."

The Committee's recommendations will now proceed to Full Council for final approval.

DRIVING INNOVATION IN THE CITY

THE ongoing partnership between the City and Innovate Durban continues to make remarkable strides in promoting innovation-led growth. A key highlight of the collaboration is the SHEshisa Programme, which places women entrepreneurs at the forefront of innovation. Of the 15 participating female founders, 13 have successfully completed the programme, showing impressive growth in areas such as digital adoption, product testing, and brand development.

The Youth Innovation Challenge remains a flagship initiative under the partnership. In the 2024/25 cycle, 59 young innovators developed 12 working prototypes aimed at tackling critical challenges including water scarcity, health sciences, and microplastics.

DURBAN EMBRACES ACTIVE MOBILITY AT CYCLE SUNDAY

DURBAN'S Blue Lagoon and the northern transit corridor came alive on 26 October as hundreds of cyclists and families took to the M4 for the City's inaugural Cycle Sunday.

The event, organised by Peschl Sports, Cycle Lab, and the Pedal Power Association in partnership with eThekwini Transport Authority's (ETA) GO!Durban, highlighted the City's growing commitment to Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) and a more integrated, people-centred transport system.

Durban is steadily moving towards a fully integrated transport network that combines buses, taxis, trains, cycling, and walking into a seamless system. At the Moses Mabhida Stadium lawns, a youth cycling zone introduced children aged 6 to 12 to safe cycling practices, including helmet use, hand signalling, and road safety awareness.

The inaugural Cycle Sunday was a resounding success, drawing hundreds of people for a fun, safe, and family-friendly ride from uMhlanga to the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

Acting Director of ETA Nelisiwe Zama, said the event underscored the importance of education and shared road responsibility.

"Cycle Sunday is about changing how we think about moving around our City," said Zama.

ETHEKWINI FURNITURE CLUSTER CHARTS A BOLD PATH FORWARD

TO strengthen its strategic direction and enhance industry collaboration, the eThekwini Furniture Cluster hosted an engaging strategy session recently at the Toyota Wessels Institute for Manufacturing Studies (TWIMS).

The session brought together influential industry leaders and stakeholders, with strong support from the City's Economic Development Directorate.

The discussions centred on developing innovative and inclusive approaches to boost market responsiveness, align with shifting customer needs, and advance sustainability, technology, and innovation within the local furniture value chain.

Participants explored practical strategies to position the sector for long-term growth while fostering shared value across the ecosystem.

A key focus of the session was enhancing industry competitiveness and identifying emerging opportunities for collaboration, investment, and skills development. Insights from the engagement are set to inform the cluster's future initiatives and guide the collective efforts of members in navigating a rapidly evolving business landscape.

This strategic dialogue marks a significant milestone in building a more resilient, adaptive, and future-ready furniture sector for eThekwini, one that continues to contribute to the region's economic growth and industrial transformation.

DURBAN FILM OFFICE TO FORGE STRATEGIC INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

IN a decisive move to strengthen eThekwini Municipality's position as a powerhouse in film and television, the Durban Film Office (DFO) has plans to enter a three-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with several leading industry-based non-profit organisations.

The partnership is designed to nurture collaboration, stimulate local talent, and ensure the long-term growth and sustainability of the City's creative industries.

The organisations joining forces with the DFO are the Durban FilmMart Institute, the Centre for Creative Arts, the Durban International Film Festival, K-CAP KwaZulu-Natal African Film Festival, the Waterloo Film Festival, and the uMlazi International Film Festival.

Through this partnership, the City will see a coordinated programme of film festivals, training initiatives, markets, and audience development events that reflect Durban's creative energy and cultural diversity. By pooling resources and expertise, these organisations aim to create opportunities for emerging filmmakers, attract international collaboration, and promote Durban as a premier film destination.

The initiative underscores the City's commitment to building an inclusive, vibrant, and economically resilient film sector that not only tells local stories but also contributes meaningfully to South Africa's growing creative economy.

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

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