ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

11 November 2025 [Issue 439]

FOOTBALL SEMI-FINAL INJECTS R48 MILLION INTO DURBAN'S ECONOMY

DURBAN'S economy received a significant boost following the successful hosting of the Carling Black Label Cup semi-final between Richards Bay FC and Orlando Pirates on 8 November, generating an estimated R48 million in total economic impact.

The sold-out match, held at the Moses Mabhida Stadium, contributed R32.5 million directly, created 145 jobs, and added R80.6 million to the City's GDP.

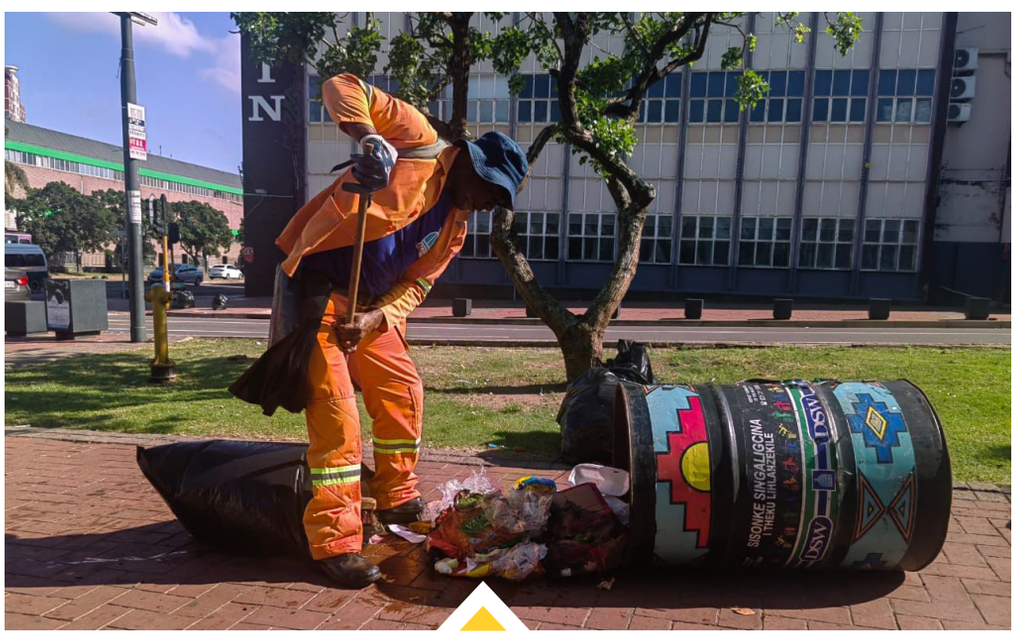
Orlando Pirates won 1-0 to advance to the final.

The event showcased the City's continued ability to host major sporting events efficiently and safely while supporting local economic activity. The match reinforced the Moses Mabhida Stadium's reputation as a premier multi-purpose venue capable of hosting high-capacity events while delivering a memorable fan experience.

The Durban Metro Police confirmed that no arrests were made. The Municipality commends the seamless collaboration between law enforcement agencies, stadium management, emergency services, and the transport sector. Their coordinated efforts ensured smooth operations, minimal traffic disruptions, and a secure environment before, during, and after the match. The City also recorded an estimated R6 million in taxes contribution, highlighting the fiscal benefits of hosting major sporting events.

Meanwhile, in line with the City's commitment to cleanliness, a post-event clean-up was conducted early on 9 November.

The Municipality extends its appreciation to all who contributed to the success of the event by adhering to regulations.



The City's Waste Management Directorate team wasted no time cleaning up the Moses Mabhida Stadium precinct after a match on 8 November at the facility.

CITY'S NEW REVENUE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

IN a strategic move to enhance operational efficiency, embrace technological innovation, and foster a customer-focused service environment, the City is pleased to announce the replacement of its current Revenue Management System. The new system, Revenue Management System: Customer to Meter (C2M), is scheduled to go live in July 2026.

The C2M system will integrate water and electricity meter management with customer service operations, including billing and rates, on a unified platform.

This modernised approach is expected to enhance the overall customer experience.

The system will streamline the billing process, improve customer interactions, and provide a comprehensive view of customer data.

This will ultimately lead to better service delivery and customer satisfaction, along with enhanced accuracy, transparency, and customer engagement.

The new system is fully compliant with the Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts regulations, aligning with national efforts to modernise financial management through the adoption of updated systems and technologies. Regular updates on the project's progress will be shared with all relevant stakeholders, including customers, business organisations, and Municipal staff.

For more information, follow the City's official communication channels.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS KEY ROLE OF TOURISM

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed government officials, industry leaders, policymakers, and experts in the tourism sector during the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Conference.

DURBAN remains one of the country's premier tourist destinations. Between January and May this year, Durban welcomed 2.8 million domestic trips and over 186 000 International visitors, generating a combined spend of over R750 million. This reaffirms Durban's status as one of South Africa's most attractive and dynamic travel destinations.

Durban was also the destination for the recent Provincial Tourism Conference, held by the Kwazulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs on 7 November at Coastlands uMhlanga.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thami Ntuli said KwaZulu-Natal was the most visited province for overnight travel, recording 2.4 million trips in the second quarter of 2025 — a remarkable 134 percent increase. "This reflects not just recovery, but renewed confidence in our brand and our destinations."

"KZN's advantage lies in its diversity of experience — the beaches, mountains, culture, and events — combined into a year-round destination that balances leisure and business tourism," he said.

The Premier outlined the Medium-Term Development Plan 2024–2029, which will continue to position tourism as a cross-cutting enabler which is currently connecting industries, fostering innovation, and promoting environmental resilience. "Our collective task is to diversify the tourism offering, strengthen investment confidence, and ensure KwaZulu-Natal remains synonymous with innovation, sustainability, and world-class hospitality," said Premier Ntuli.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said the City has established a division that prioritises safety and security of residents and visitors, a first in the country.

"Our Coastal and Tourism Policing Division, patrols 100 kilometres of our coastline. This underscores our commitment to ensuring that both residents and visitors can enjoy our beaches and attractions in a safe environment."

Mayor Xaba called on partners to work with government saying: "We continue to call for strong partnerships with the private sector to drive innovation, investment, and inclusive growth."

R25 MILLION INVESTMENT IN NEW EQUIPMENT

THE City has invested R25 million in over 1 000 new horticultural and maintenance equipment to accelerate grass cutting and improve the upkeep of public spaces across eThekwini.

The equipment was officially handed over at the Munnies Hockey Club on 7 November, where eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and Community Services Committee Chairperson Councillor Zama Sokhabase unveiled the new fleet. The tools- which include brush-cutters, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, pole pruners, tractors with grass-cutting slashers, and skid steers- are expected to boost the Recreation and Parks Directorate's operational capacity ahead of the summer season, when maintenance demands are at their highest.

Over 1 000 new horticultural and maintenance tools were unveiled which is set to boost citywide maintenance efforts. The new fleet includes brush-cutters, chainsaws, pole pruners, hedge trimmers, tractors with grass-cutting slashers, and skid steers.

Mayor Xaba said the investment is vital to maintaining Durban's reputation as one of the world's greenest cities.

"EThekwini is globally recognised for its lush green spaces, and this initiative ensures we maintain that standard. These tools are not just machines, they're enablers of dignity, safety, and pride in our communities," he said.

Councillor Sokhabase said the new equipment will help Municipal teams deliver faster and more efficient services across hundreds of parks, sports fields, community halls, swimming pools, and stadiums.

The purchase forms part of the Municipality's broader strategy to build a resilient, sustainable, and liveable city through improved maintenance of public amenities.

TOWN PLANNING DRIVES CHANGE

Various stakeholders in the town and regional planning profession addressed delegates during the second National Planning Indaba.

TOWN planning remains a cornerstone of spatial, economic, and social transformation.This was the central theme at the National Planning Indaba, held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 6 and 7 November.

The event, convened in celebration of World Town Planning Day, recognised the critical role of town planners in shaping sustainable and inclusive urban environments.

The Indaba was hosted in collaboration with the South African Planning Institute, the South African Council of Planners, the South African Local Government Association, and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

EThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele said: "Planning is not merely about maps and regulations, it is about connecting people to opportunities, ensuring appropriate housing development, and aligning infrastructure with public spaces."

SAPI President Dr Johannes Mulaudzi highlighted the role of planners in confronting interlinked challenges, advocating for planning models that are resilient, collaborative, and responsive to shifting economic, political, and social dynamics.

ETHEKWINI EMBRACES SMART TECHNOLOGY

ETHEKWINI Municipality is embracing cutting-edge technology to transform how it prepares for, responds to, and recovers from emergencies.

At the heart of this transformation is a commitment to resilience, where smart tools become trusted allies in every phase of disaster risk management: from preparedness and prevention to response and recovery. This was witnessed during the recent 4th annual Southern African Drone, Artificial Intelligence, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference recently held in Durban.

The conference brought together government leaders, SADC dignitaries, G20 representatives, drone operators, GIS specialists, academics, and civil society.

Hosted by QP Drone Tech in partnership with South Africa Flying Labs, WeRobotics, and Esri, the event showcased how modern technologies are saving lives, from rapid aerial mapping during floods to AI-driven drought prediction models.

EThekwini is stepping into the future with drones, Artificial Intelligence and Geographic Information Systems to protect lives, predict risks, and build a resilient City. This follows the 4th annual Southern African Drone, AI, and GIS Conference which was recently held in Durban.

EThekwini Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni said eThekwini has felt the devastating impact of disasters firsthand.

"The conference was a game-changer for our City. We are stepping into a future where technology will build a City that is proactive and not reactive," she said.

Deputy Mayor Myeni added that this initiative is about ensuring that when disaster strikes, the City is ready.

The Municipality will integrate these technologies into its disaster management framework, she added.

CITY CELEBRATES FAST GROWING BUSINESS SECTOR

THE recent annual South Africa Global Business Services (GBS)/ Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Conference Alchemy Awards highlighted the growth in these sectors.

The conference took place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 4 and 5 November and was supported by the City's Economic Development Directorate.

Opening addresses were delivered by Deputy Minister of Trade, Investment and Competition Zuko Godlimpi and Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli.

As the premier platform for South Africa's GBS and BPO industries, the conference fostered innovation, collaboration, and growth by bringing together industry leaders and experts to explore global trends and celebrate local excellence.

The GBS sector has become one of the fastest-growing segments of South Africa's economy. It connects local talent with international markets through technology, creativity, and service excellence opportunities for young people and women.

In Durban, every new job in this sector strengthens families and uplifts communities.

Over the past three years, 1 143 young people have benefited from the City-funded work readiness, skills development, and job placement programme, supported by a budget of R11.6 million.

Councillor Ntuli reaffirmed the City's commitment to supporting the sector's expansion.

ETHEKWINI JOINS GLOBAL C40 CITIES

ETHEKWINI Municipality has joined a global coalition of cities taking urgent action to tackle one of the most dangerous impacts of climate change: extreme heat.

As a founding member of the C40 Cities Cool Cities Accelerator, announced at the World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 3 November, eThekwini is committing to protect residents from escalating heat risks and transform urban spaces for a safer, cooler future.

Speaker of the eThekwini Municipality Council, Councillor Thabani Nyawose, representing the Municipality at the C40 World Mayors Summit Local Leaders Forum, highlighted the urgent need for climate-resilient urban systems, following the numerous flooding incidents in eThekwini since 2017.

He called for increased climate finance for cities in the Global South, focusing on adaptation programmes that deliver tangible benefits to the communities most affected by climate change.

Commenting on the City's participation, Lihle Phewa, Executive Director for Municipal Planning, said: "Urban heat is no longer a distant concern—it's a daily reality for many communities in Durban. Our goal is to build a city that is resilient, healthier, and more equitable for all residents. We look forward to engaging with other cities in this programme."

EThekwini's involvement aligns with its broader climate strategy, including the Durban Climate Change Strategy and the Climate Action Plan, which aim to achieve net-zero emissions and climate resilience by 2050.

The initiative brings together cities representing over 143 million people worldwide.

By sharing strategies and scaling proven solutions, cities can act faster and more effectively together.

EThekwini Speaker Councillor Thabani Nyawose joined fellow African Mayors at the African Mayors Regional Convening held at the C40 World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

CITY HONOURS LIFEGUARDS

EThekwini lifeguards were honoured and awarded for their bravery and professional excellence in saving lives. These heroes play a vital role in preventing drownings.

ETHEKWINI Municipality has honoured its lifeguards for their dedication to water safety as the City prepares for the busy festive season.

The Municipality's Recreation and Parks Directorate hosted an awards ceremony at the Moses Mabhida Stadium on 5 November to recognise both beach and swimming pool lifesavers for their service.

Chairperson of the Community Services Committee Councillor Zama Sokhabase thanked the lifeguards for their commitment to public safety despite difficult weather conditions. "Your tireless efforts and commitment to keeping our communities safe are truly appreciated."

OFFICIALS ATTEND C40 LOW-CARBON TRANSPORT STUDY TOUR IN CHINA

CITY officials attended a Low-Carbon Urban Transport Study Tour held in Shenzhen, China. The event aimed to share best practices, deepen collaboration, and advance green urban mobility.

The study tour, which was organised by the Shenzhen Bus Group Co, brought together representatives from Shenzhen's transport authority as well as transport officials from Durban, Cape Town, and Kenya. The key focus was discussions on low-carbon public transport policies, planning, and operational practices.

Director of the Fleet Management and Administration Directorate Malcolm Joshua and eThekwini Transport Authority Public Transport Co-Ordinator Babalwa Latha attended the tour.

City officials attended a Low-Carbon Urban Transport Study Tour in Shenzhen, China recently to learn best practices to improve transport in the City.

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

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