ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

02 December 2025 [Issue 441]

DURBAN WELCOMES GLOBAL RETAILER IN R220 MILLION DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL home-improvement retailer Leroy Merlin announced its first KwaZulu-Natal store on 27 November, at a sod-turning ceremony on the site of the brand's first expansion outside Gauteng.

Set to open in November 2026, Leroy Merlin Cornubia signals renewed investor confidence in eThekwini and the province, with this R220 million new-build investment in Durban's northern development corridor.

"This flagship project in Cornubia is the first step in a broader plan for future development and expansion in KwaZulu-Natal," said Patrycja Pelowska, Senior Project Manager for Leroy Merlin.

He added: "The store will not only create local employment opportunities but will also bring accessible, innovative home-improvement solutions closer to the communities of KZN."

Leroy Merlin's parent company, Adeo Group, is the third-largest home-improvement group globally.

The milestone development is being delivered in partnership with eThekwini Municipality and local property investment company Fundamentum Property Group.

The City, together with private-sector partners Fundamentum Property Developers, Investec, and the Adeo Group, marked the sod turning of KwaZulu-Natal's first Leroy Merlin store. The development forms part of Phase 1 of the new Cornubia Business Park, a project expected to catalyse investment and drive transformation across Durban's northern development corridor.

This investment represents one of Durban's most positive foreign direct investment announcements in recent years, particularly as the City works to rebuild, reposition, and accelerate growth, following a challenging socio-economic period. EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said: "The commencement of construction on their new 10 000 m² retail facility will not only transform this area into a vibrant construction site but will also create much-needed job opportunities for the community."

Mayor Xaba added that the sod turning marks the beginning of eight planned development phases under the full ownership of Cornubia Business Park (Pty) Ltd.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "This development will inject R300 million in initial private capital, with bulk earthworks already underway. It is expected to create 2 500 construction jobs and 1 200 permanent jobs."

DEBT RELIEF PROGRAMME ENDS IN JANUARY

RESIDENTS and business customers are reminded that the City's special Debt Relief Programme has been reinstated, and they can benefit if they have accumulated debt up to 31 January 2025.

The Debt Relief Programme began on 1 November and will end on 31 January 2026.

Customers can approach any Sizakala Centre and pay off 50 percent of the accumulated debt and the Municipality will write off the remaining 50 percent.

If full payment cannot be made, customers have until 31 January 2026, where equal repayments will be calculated, and this arrangement must be honoured.

Additionally, if the customer has debt from February 2025 to 30 June 2025, this must also be settled.

No interest will be charged but a payment arrangement can be made to settle by 30 June 2026.

Water loss customers who have claimed and have been partially paid, also qualify.

The difference between the amount claimed, average monthly consumption and the amount paid by the insurance will be written off; however, customers must provide valid documents as proof.

CITY FAST-TRACKS INVESTMENT THROUGH ETHEKWINI INVESTOR FRIDAYS SITE VISITS

TO ACCELERATE investment, unlock jobs and remove development bottlenecks, eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele, together with the executives from various directorates, led the second eThekwini Investor Fridays Site Visits on 28 November.

The initiative's goal is to work closely with investors, hear their challenges firsthand, and fast-track major developments that bring large-scale job opportunities to the City.

The delegation, supported by the Operations Management and Catalytic Projects Directorates as well as Technical Services, visited UPL, South Africa's chemical manufacturing plant, Investec Property's Brickworks Phase Two development, and the DEVMCO Sibaya Precinct Development. The City Manager also engaged MET Builders about proposed development of Municipal-owned sites, reiterating that such opportunities will follow a public tender process.

EThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele led the Investor Fridays Site Visits engagement which aims to remove bottlenecks and fast-track investment across eThekwini.

Mbhele said discussions during the visit focused on overcoming lingering challenges, including those arising from the 2021 unrest at UPL and associated compliance and remediation processes, as well as accelerating progress at Brickworks Phase Two.

"When developments are delayed, jobs and revenue are delayed. That is why this programme is critical. Our target as a City is to attract more than R40 billion in new investment, and we can only achieve that by making investors feel welcome and supported."

Investec Property Joint Chief Executive, David Rosmarin, welcomed the intervention and its impact on delivery timelines.

BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL SEASON COMMENCES

TO ENSURE uninterrupted business operations, eThekwini Municipality has launched the annual business license renewal season from 1 December.

Businesses must complete their license renewal by the deadline of 31 January 2026.

Emphasising the importance of the renewal process, Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said the renewal of business licenses ensures proper management and accountability within business sectors.

Businesses can renew their licenses at no cost through the online Business Licensing Portal available on the Municipality's website, (http://www.durban.gov.za). Alternatively, they can visit any Business Licensing Office where the original license was obtained. The online portal offers a user-friendly experience for processing renewals, new applications, and making amendments. Businesses are urged to comply to avoid penalties.

To successfully renew their licenses, businesses must provide the following supporting documents:

- Original business license
- Certified copy of the license holder's ID
- Proxy letter if applicable
- South African Police Service fingerprints clearance with "No illicit activity identified" for health and entertainment facilities
- Close corporation or company documents if applicable
- Annual notification form (available online or at Regional Licensing Offices).

For further enquiries, businesses can contact eThekwini Municipality's Business Licensing Division on 031 311 4535 or email licensing@durban.gov.za.

DRAGONS' DEN CELEBRATES INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

THE Durban Chemical Cluster (DCC), in partnership with the City's Economic Development Directorate, successfully hosted the seventh DCC Dragons' Den. This year's pitching competition featured 10 dynamic small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs). After a series of compelling presentations, four outstanding SMMEs were selected as category winners. NuCarbon, represented by Muven Naidoo and Njabulo Bophela, claimed the prestigious DCC Vision Award and received R20 000. The DCC Vision Runner-Up Award went to KCM Environmental Services, led by Yovani Naidoo, earning R15 000. Deojay Petroleum, represented by Treshen Naidu and Nisha Reddy, secured the Sustainable Business Culture Award and R10 000. The Rapid Growth Potential Award went to Win B, owned by Bawinile Nzima who received R10 000.

Small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises were awarded for their vision and sustainability at the recent Durban Chemical Cluster Dragons' Den event.

CITY IN FULL FESTIVE MODE WITH ALL SWIMMING BEACHES OPEN

THE City has pulled out all the stops to ensure that holidaymakers and residents enjoy a memorable experience in Durban.

With 1.3 million visitors expected to descend on the City during the festive season, the Municipality is confident it is prepared to deliver yet another vibrant holiday season.

All 23 bathing beaches in Durban are safe for swimming. This is according to the latest beach water results.

The beach water quality will continue to be monitored by a team of experts to ensure the City complies with water quality and safety standards.

All swimming pools along the beach promenade have been maintained and filled up with fresh water to ensure an optimal and safe environment.

This includes the Children Amusement Centre Swimming Pool, the South Beach Paddling Pool, and Laguna Swimming Pool.

All bathing beaches in the City are open for swimming following the latest beach water results. Tests will continue to be conducted to ensure quality standards are maintained with the festive season approaching.

Meanwhile, the Municipality is expected to reopen two swimming pool facilities in Illovu and Asherville soon.

Repairs at these swimming pools are complete.

To ensure safety of swimmers, the City reiterates that swimming while under the influence of alcohol is prohibited.

Instructions given by law enforcement officers, lifesavers, and pool supervisors need to be obeyed to ensure the safety of all.

Jumping off piers along the beachfront is also prohibited.

MAYOR XABA CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF DURBAN'S LOGISTICS SECTOR

EThekwini Municipality recently hosted the Port and Rail Week, a strategic engagement to improve port and rail infrastructure in the continent.

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba has expressed strong optimism about the future of Durban's logistics sector.

His confidence is driven by the bold initiatives the City is implementing in partnership with Transnet and private-sector stakeholders to improve port efficiency and revitalise rail infrastructure.

Speaking at the Port and Rail Week recently, an event that brought together key industry players, Mayor Xaba said Durban is on an upward trajectory to build a robust logistics sector capable of driving economic growth and job creation. Port and Rail Week was organised by the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa.

Durban is home to the busiest port in Sub-Saharan Africa and the fourth-largest container terminal in the Southern Hemisphere, giving the City a competitive edge on the continent.

Mayor Xaba emphasised the importance of continued investment in port infrastructure not only to enhance performance, but also to ease congestion.

"I am happy that in recent months, Transnet has invested billions of rand in cargo-handling equipment, which has greatly contributed to decongesting the port," he said.

Mayor Xaba added: "I am particularly encouraged by the over R100 billion port expansion programme currently underway, an initiative set to position the Port of Durban as a world-class container hub and premier automotive terminal."

TOURISM PEWG CONFIDENT OF BUMPER HOLIDAY SEASON

THE Presidential eThekwini Working Group (PeWG) Workstream on Tourism Revitalisation is confident that the City will deliver an impactful and successful festive season. This comes as the City prepares to receive an influx of holidaymakers during this period.

The PeWG workstream held a meeting recently in uMhlanga where the Metro Police reported on the safety and security plans in place for the festive season. To address the issue of homelessness, the Sakhithemba Homeless Shelter in Illovu will assist in this regard.

During the meeting, the committee welcomed the commitment from the Office of the Chief Public Prosecutor in dealing with cases involving tourists.

Senior Public Prosecutor Roshiela Benimadho, who is a coordinator of matters involving foreign visitors, said tourists need special handling as they are vulnerable and sometimes not familiar with the criminal justice system.

She said international visitors who are victims of crime are still ambassadors of their South African experience in their countries.

Benimadho said tourism contributes massively to South Africa's economy and that the manner in which the justice system treats international visitors impacts directly on their return, global reputation, diplomatic relations, investment sentiments, and media portrayal of crime.

This workstream aims to support and accelerate efforts to improve service delivery, business confidence, and to reposition eThekwini as an investment and tourism hotspot.

The committee strives to jointly identify challenges and to develop and implement effective initiatives to have a long lasting impact.

CITY HONOURS LONG-SERVING STAFF, HIGHLIGHTING SERVICE DELIVERY IMPACT

The City honoured more than 580 employees for 20, 30 and 40 years of service. Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala pictured with one of the recipients.

ETHEKWINI Municipality has recognised more than 580 employees for 20, 30 and 40 years of service, citing their role in maintaining essential services and stabilising operations during periods of infrastructural and economic pressure.

The Long Service Awards, held on 26 November at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, acknowledged employees who have worked through floods, budget constraints and operational challenges to ensure continuity in water, electricity, waste, roads, repairs and other frontline Municipal functions.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said the employees' commitment had contributed directly to maintaining service delivery standards across the City.

He said long-serving staff have been integral in repairing ageing infrastructure, responding to community service requests and supporting the Municipality's recovery efforts after major disasters.

The Long Service Awards help boost staff morale and retention, which the Municipality views as critical to improving service delivery.

Several long-standing employees said the recognition motivates them to continue contributing to operational improvements which in turn will enhance service delivery.

Municipal leadership said experienced employees remain essential to sustaining service delivery, transferring institutional knowledge and supporting newer staff.

TRADERS EMPOWERED ON BUSINESS COMPLIANCE

MORE than 30 formal traders attended a business compliance workshop held at the Lotus Community Hall in Ward 90. The workshop, hosted by the South Durban Basin-Supply Side and Area Based Operations Directorate, aimed to equip formal traders with practical business management skills. A strong focus of the workshop was business licensing and by-law compliance.

Operation Sukuma Sakhe Chairperson Mukesh Briglal said the workshop aimed to equip formal traders with practical business management skills focusing on business applications and registration and by-law compliance.

Business Support Informal Trade Community Liaison Officer Sonia Chirwa urged attendees to visit Municipal Business Support Offices for assistance to ensure compliance.

To empower traders in the formal sector, the South Durban Basin-Supply Side and Area Based Operations Directorate led a formal business compliance workshop.

Ward Committee Member Thami Danisa thanked officials for hosting the workshop.

"It has been empowering and vital to empower formal traders. Further workshops focusing on financial management is needed to further equip them," he said.

CITY PAUSES JOB ADS TO POWER DIGITAL HR TRANSFORMATION

ETHEKWINI Municipality will be pausing all job advertisements for two months as the City migrates to Oracle HCM, a world-class e-Recruitment platform designed to revolutionise hiring. From 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026, all job advertisements will be temporarily frozen to enable a smooth migration from the old system to Oracle HCM, a cutting-edge solution designed to simplify hiring, streamline applications, and create a seamless onboarding experience for job seekers.

The previous e-Recruitment portal officially closed on 30 November 2025, paving the way for the full transition to Oracle HCM. From 1 February 2026, all vacancies will be published exclusively through the Oracle portal on the Municipal website.

Director of the Human Resources (HR) Directorate Sihle Mkhize emphasised that this transition is about improving the human experience. "We are moving to Oracle HCM because we want to make recruitment faster, simpler, and more accessible for every job seeker," he said.

The platform will allow applicants to apply from anywhere, track progress, and enjoy a streamlined onboarding process. During the migration, no new jobs will be posted on Neptune or external platforms such as Ezasegagasini, Sunday Times, or LinkedIn. Exceptions apply only to the Outreach and Capacity Building Section, which will continue manual bursary applications. For critical positions requiring urgent recruitment, adverts may be approved manually under the HR Directorate's discretion.

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

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