ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

09 December 2025 [Issue 442]

FESTIVE SEASON BRINGS ECONOMIC BOOST FOR THE CITY

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba officially launched the City's festive season management plans that aims to keep visitors and residents safe while ensuring they have a memorable stay in the City. The launch took place at uShaka Marine World on 5 December.

The City anticipates around 1.3 million visitors will descend on Durban over the festive season with a direct spend of more than R341 million and a total contribution of R845 million to the City's GDP. This economic activity will help create over 15 000 jobs and generate more than R630 million in taxes, said Mayor Xaba.

He added: "This festive season is particularly special for us, as it comes at a time when the City is experiencing significant improvements in water and sanitation services. For the first time in five years, all our bulk water reservoirs are stable, with the Durban Heights, Wiggins, and Midmar Treatment Works all operating at full capacity."

He said communities in the north of Durban have received an early Christmas gift, as they will now enjoy reliable water supply following the recommissioning of the Ntuzuma 2 Water Pumpstation, which was destroyed by fire in 2023.

"Our festive season is further strengthened by the latest beach water quality results, which confirm that all 23 of our bathing beaches are safe for swimming," said Mayor Xaba.

He said they will continue to monitor beach water quality through weekly testing.

The City successfully launched its festive season management plans at uShaka Marine World on 5 December. EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said all 23 bathing beaches are safe for swimming, adding that 2 000 officers will be deployed for day and nighttime patrols on freeways, beachfront, shopping centres and on crime hotspots. All these safety and security efforts will be supported by more than 500 closed-circuit television cameras.

Speaking on tourism, Mayor Xaba said tourism continues on an upward economic trajectory. "Recent data from South African Tourism shows exceptional growth across both domestic and international markets. Domestic tourism spend increased by 28 percent, reaching R8.4 billion between January and October 2025, driven by a growing demand for experience-led activities. International visitor spend rose by 29 percent to R1.1 billion, supported by high-growth markets such as Australia, the UAE, and Botswana."

He said plans are in place to ensure safety of visitors and residents.

"There will be enhanced law-enforcement visibility across the City with increased policing in entertainment areas. Multidisciplinary operations, including roadblocks, focusing on reckless driving, unroadworthy vehicles and drinking and driving, will be conducted. Over 2 000 officers will be deployed for day and nighttime patrols on freeways, the beachfront, shopping centres, and crime hotspots. These efforts are supported by our network of more than 500 closed-circuit television cameras."

Mayor Xaba said to further strengthen safety, the newly established Coastal and Tourism Policing Unit will patrol 100 kilometres of coastline, from Umkhomazi in the south to Westbrook in the north.

The City has also increased capacity at the beachfront by recruiting 650 seasonal staff including 78 lifeguards, 135 litter pickers, 67 beach guides, 70 pool supervisors, 113 pool attendants, 43 childminders, and 135 additional security guards.

"With all these measures in place, we are confident that we will deliver a safe, vibrant, and memorable festive season," concluded Mayor Xaba.

CITY AND TRANSNET DRIVE THREE MEGA PROJECTS

IN A renewed push to accelerate economic recovery and unlock large-scale investment, Municipal leadership, led by eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele, convened with Transnet executives at the Durban City Hall on 4 December. The session, held under the Investor Business Engagements initiative, focused on three catalytic projects: namely the proposed second airport in the south of Durban, the Durban Eye, and the Durban Bay Waterfront.

Central to the discussions was the City's formal intention to establish a second airport at the old Durban International Airport site. This proposal is aimed at addressing economic decline in the southern region, which began after the relocation of the main airport to the north. Airports are recognised as catalysts for development, driving business activity, property investment, tourism growth and skills development, particularly in aviation services and pilot training.

Discussions between eThekwini Municipality and Transnet executives on 4 December marked a key step in fast-tracking three catalytic projects set to unlock jobs, strengthen the City's economy, and grow its revenue base.

The Durban Bay Waterfront project, which has secured Council approval for its concept framework, presents significant potential. A moderate-to-high density development scenario indicates between 200 000 and 350 000 square metres of development rights within the precinct. This allows for mixed-use commercial activities, hospitality, recreation, and public spaces. The project aims to bridge the historic divide between the central business district and the waterfront through a promenade, improved pedestrian access, and greater connectivity, while still accommodating critical logistics and port operations.

In the short-term, the City has recommended securing funding to undertake a detailed pre-feasibility study for the Durban Bay Waterfront project. The Durban Eye, proposed for the Northern Breakwaters at the Point Waterfront, is envisioned as a signature tourism landmark.

"These initiatives are about building new infrastructure, restoring confidence, creating jobs and repositioning Durban as a globally competitive destination," said Mbhele.

Other site visits on the day included the Oceans Development and Eldorado Precinct.

ETHEKWINI INVITES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO BOOST AUTOMOTIVE AND CHEMICAL SECTORS

THE City's Economic Development Directorate is calling on industry-specific business organisations to partner with the City to accelerate growth within the automotive and chemical sectors.

Housed within the Municipal Planning Department, the Economic Development Directorate plays a central role in advancing the Integrated Development Plan's objective of building a strong, inclusive regional economy.

Through its Industry Development Division, the Directorate drives programmes that stimulate investment, competitiveness, and job creation.

These efforts align with national and municipal strategies, including the Reimagined Industrial Strategy and the City's Sakha iTheku/Shape Durban vision, all aimed at fostering re-industrialisation, localisation, and economic transformation.

To strengthen this work, the Municipality seeks partnerships with experienced industry bodies capable of delivering services such as project facilitation, sector research, governance support, productivity improvement, and market access particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Selected partners will help provide a comprehensive portfolio of services that enhance firm competitiveness and support sustainable job creation.

Eligible organisations must demonstrate at least three years' experience, strong governance, inclusive representation, and a clear plan for adding value to existing Municipal programmes.

An advert with all the details will be published in the lastest Metro Ezasegagasini publication.

Applications close on 16 January 2026 at 3.30pm and must be emailed to Takalani.Rathiyaya@durban.gov.za

NTUZUMA PUMPSTATION COMMISSIONED

RESIDENTS in Ntuzuma, parts of KwaMashu, Inanda and surrounding areas will enjoy improved water supply this Christmas following the completion and commissioning of the functional upgrade of the Ntuzuma 2 Water Pumpstation.

EThekwini Municipality marked a significant milestone on 3 December with its ongoing efforts to strengthen water supply to communities with the official unveiling of its upgraded, state-of-the-art water pumpstation.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, Chairperson of the Trading Services Committee Councillor Mdu Nkosi, Deputy Chairperson of the committee Councillor Ayanda Ndlovu and several ward councillors attended the unveiling of the upgraded pumpstation.

The pumpstation was not operating at full capacity as the pumps had reached their design life which was further exacerbated by a fire in 2023 which caused major damage.

Project Manager for the Ntuzuma 2 Water Pumpstation Binay Maharaj showed the City's leadership, including eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, the cutting-edge technology being utilised at the site.

Emergency repairs were undertaken to restore functionality to a small section while the functional upgrade of the entire facility was underway.

The R56 million functional upgrade enhanced the mechanical and electrical components of the pumpstation and has increased its performance and reliability.

Areas with infrastructure network now have improved water supply. This is while the City also undertakes various projects to upgrade water infrastructure in areas that lack infrastructure.

Speaking on site, Mayor Xaba expressed appreciation for the completion of the project, saying the functional upgrade marks the City's progressive measures to improve service delivery in the water supply environment.

"This station has 15 pumps and standby pumps to assist in case of any challenge. We have also implemented modernised technology to identify faults before they cause challenges," he said.

Equipped with cutting-edge technology, the upgraded pumpstation features high-efficiency pumps, automated control systems, and real-time monitoring tools designed to optimise performance and reduce operational downtime.

NEW VALUATION ROLL IN 2026

ETHEKWINI Municipality will be re-valuing all properties in early 2026.

The new valuation roll will be published in February and will come into effect on 1 July. The valuation is being done in accordance with the Municipal Property Rates Act (MPRA).

Director of the Property Management and Valuations Directorate Thapelo Mmusinyane said: "The MPRA outlines that the City must re-value all properties at least once every four years. This accounts for the changes in market values as well as any new developments or improvements to the property."

Customers who are not happy with their property values will be able to lodge an objection. The public is requested to keep an eye on the Municipality's social media pages for more information.

Residents are urged to note that the City will be re-valuing all properties in early 2026.

Property owners who are not yet registered on the e-Services portal are urged to do so as soon as possible as the notice informing them of the new valuation, will be sent through this digital platform.

Currently, just under 600 000 customers are registered on e-Services. The portal is especially useful, as, in addition to receiving their notices, customers can also capture their meter readings, check their bills and also make payment at the touch of a button.

Visit https://eservices.durban.gov.za/v2/ to register your profile.

AMANDLA AND ETHEKWINI DRIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AT KWAMASHU SAFE HUB

A LOCAL organisation, AMANDLA, in partnership with the City's Economic Development Directorate, recently led a site visit to the KwaMashu Safe Hub, an innovative outdoor sports facility set to transform youth development in the township. The delegation, joined by representatives from Unilever, toured the newly installed field, which features GreenFields Slide Max fibre which is an advanced surface designed with a ribbed diamond structure that enhances durability, optimises playing performance, and delivers a natural, high-quality aesthetic.

The City showcased the KwaMashu Safe Hub initiative, an infrastructure development to support youth.

Once operational, the Safe Hub will provide young people in KwaMashu with a safe and vibrant space to learn, grow, and connect. The facility will host structured, sports-based programmes that promote health, safety, academic support, and employability. These programmes aim to link youth with positive role models, mentorship, and essential social services, ensuring that personal development extends far beyond the playing field.

Nkululeko Mkhize, the Deputy Director of the City's Economic Development Projects, emphasised that the initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen community resilience, empower young people, and create meaningful pathways to opportunity.

The institution is set to open its doors soon.

PARTNERING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ETHEKWINI Municipality is leading the charge towards environmental education and stewardship. The Municipality's Biodiversity Management Department recently hosted the Biodiversity Forum which saw an expert panel discuss how to partner with key institutions and build a community of environmental champions.

"Connecting communities to environmental action through education" was one of the topics discussed.

Established in 2009, the eThekwini Biodiversity Forum hosts quarterly meetings that serve as a collaborative platform for stakeholders to engage on key biodiversity-related issues. These engagements aim to strengthen partnerships and facilitate critical discussions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

A panel of expert speakers representing various stakeholders shared their knowledge at the Biodiversity Forum recently.

Expert panellists included Nomfundo Ndaba from Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, Dr Nomalanga Hlophe from the KwaZulu-Natal Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Department, Nonhlanhla Ngwabe from eThekwini Municipality's Natural Resources Division and Lucy Coelho, representing the eThekwini Environmental Education and Public Awareness Network. They all shared insights on how government, communities, and private institutions can work together to become environmental stewards.

Outstanding forum members were also recognised for their contributions to biodiversity management including:

- Best Presenter and Presentation: Dr Sebataolo Rahlao
- Perfect Attendance: Himansu Baijnath and Preshnee Singh
- The Bheki Mdletshe Engagement Champions were Brendan Smith, Zimbali Estate Environmental Manager and Phakamani Masuku, University of KwaZulu-Natal PhD Student.

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

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