ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

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R1BN AMUSEMENT PARK PLANNED FOR DURBAN'S BEACHFRONT

The City will soon be home to a world-class amusement park, set to change the face of Durban's beachfront.

EThekwini Municipality announced plans on 10 December for a breathtaking R1 billion amusement park development at the former Durban Funworld site, with completion targeted for 2027.

The project will be led by Masithu Consulting and Project Managers — a Durban-based, 100 percent black-owned firm with more than 17 years' experience in delivering large-scale urban development projects.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed the development saying: "We are excited that this partnership allows the Municipality to upgrade a key public amenity while securing significant private investment into the beachfront. This project will strengthen Durban's position as a leading coastal destination and continue to attract visitors to enjoy our warm weather all year round."

The Durban Amusement Park forms part of the City's strategy to revitalise the beachfront economy, unlock private-sector investment, and re-establish Durban as Africa's premier coastal tourism hub.

The project is expected to create approximately 900 construction jobs and over 500 permanent jobs in operations, hospitality, technical services, and entertainment programming.

The development will introduce new world-class attractions, including the Lightning Roller Coaster, Disko 24, Vertical Swing, and a 1 500m² Virtual Reality Theme Park with more than 160 interactive games and global e-sports activations. The park will be developed in partnership with two leading Italian amusement engineering firms well known for projects at Ferrari World, Universal Studios, and Disneyland.

Key public upgrades will include:

- Neon-lit pedestrian walkways for enhanced safety and night-time ambience
- Panoramic viewing decks overlooking the ocean and city skyline
- Themed food courts and leisure hubs
- An alcohol-free, family-friendly environment
- A fully redeveloped splash-park and children's water play area, funded entirely by the developer.

The project is advancing with the receipt of expressions of interest from three development funding institutions, signalling strong investor confidence. It forms part of a broader R2-billion private-sector investment pipeline along the Golden Mile, complementary to the Joe Cools redevelopment, and upgrades to the Elangeni and Maharani hotels, as well as the City's long-term beachfront renewal programme.

Mayor Xaba concluded: "We are committed to creating an environment where business can thrive. We call on residents, businesses, and visitors to work with us to keep the promenade clean, safe, and family-friendly as we welcome this new era of development on the beachfront."

ETHEKWINI LAUNCHES CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM TO DRIVE URGENT ACTION

IN A bold step to combat the escalating impacts of climate change, eThekwini Municipality launched the Municipal Forum for Climate Change at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre. The Forum will serve as a collaborative platform to implement the Durban Climate Change Strategy, strengthen South Africa's commitments under the Paris Agreement, and ensure that climate action leaves no one behind.

This initiative underscores the City's commitment to reducing climate change impacts and aligns with the Climate Change Act, No. 22 of 2024, signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa in June 2024.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba emphasised the urgency of the initiative.

From left, eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele, eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli, and Chaiperson of the Trading Services Committee Councillor Mdu Nkosi at the signing of the Terms of Reference of the Municipal Forum for Climate Change that was launched on 10 December.

"Climate change is no longer a distant threat. In April 2022, eThekwini experienced its most devastating floods, claiming over 450 lives, displacing thousands, and causing damage worth billions of rands. Scientific evidence shows that rainfall during this event was 30 percent higher due to climate change, and projections indicate this figure could double by 2050 to 2070. We must act now to prepare for these impacts," said Mayor Xaba.

The Forum brings together civil society, traditional leaders, the private sector, academia, youth, and other stakeholders to oversee mitigation and adaptation efforts, prioritising vulnerable communities.

Governance and Human Resources Committee remains a cornerstone for economic growth

ETHEKWINI Municipality's Governance and Human Resources Committee remains a driving force behind the City's quest for service excellence and economic growth. This was witnessed during the recent Governance and Human Resources Strategy Workshop.

This Committee is the cornerstone of organisational excellence, working tirelessly to ensure that every directorate within the committee is firing on all cylinders to deliver top-notch services to eThekwini residents.

Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala emphasised the importance of the workshop saying: "This strategy workshop has given us a clear roadmap as the foundation of economic development. The committee remains committed to driving excellence in governance, operations, and human capital, and we are confident that our efforts will translate into better services."

A Governance and Human Resources Strategy Workshop was recently held to chart the way forward.

Renowned governance expert, Professor TK Pooe from the School of Governance at Wits University, shared valuable insights on the importance of governance, operations, and human capital as the foundation of a successful organisation.

"Good governance is the backbone of any successful organisation, and it's imperative that municipalities prioritise these three pillars to deliver exceptional service to communities," said Prof Pooe.

The Committee's efforts will create a conducive business environment, driving economic growth and investment in eThekwini.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE WINS AWARD

A TEAM from the City's Energy Management Directorate scooped the prestigious 2025 Significant Project Engineering Award from the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers KwaZulu-Natal Centre for their Digitisation Project. This accolade is testament to the Directorate's new Online Electricity Application and Application Tracking Portal, which was recently celebrated at the awards ceremony.

Awarded only once a year, this competitive category recognises projects that exemplify exceptional creativity and innovation.

Philani Shange, Director in the Energy Management Directorate, expressed pride in this achievement.

CITY AND KZN OILS PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES SMMES WITH FINANCIAL BOOST

An awards ceremony celebrating the achievements of small businesses, supported through the City's Enterprise and Supplier Development Programme known as The Unicorns, was held on 12 December at the Durban Exhibition Centre. Fourteen small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises that successfully completed the eight-month skills programme received trophies, certificates, and financial prizes. The top five beneficiaries were awarded cheques ranging from R10 000 to R30 000.

The programme is a strategic partnership between eThekwini Municipality and KZN Oils, established to address barriers faced by township and rural entrepreneurs.

More than 74 enterprises applied to participate, with 20 selected, and 14 graduating after completing an intensive programme.

EThekwini Municipality and KZN Oils leadership celebrated with the top five winners at The Unicorns Programme Awards, where beneficiaries received cheques to boost business operations.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli described the programme as a practical demonstration of empowerment through action, access, and opportunity.

KZN Oils Chief Executive Officer Esay Reddy said the company partnered with the Municipality because of a shared commitment to empower entrepreneurs and drive sustainable economic growth.

Beneficiaries reported measurable business growth as a direct result of the programme. Ayavuya Sibisi of Smoothies Bar, which produces smoothies, received support in business management and planning, franchising, marketing, Artificial Intelligence integration and distribution strategies. Since being part of the programme, he has recorded a notable increase in monthly revenue.

"The training changed how I run my business and my sales have improved to an average of R20 000 a month."

Luleka Mbanjwa, founder of Luleka Tsolo Farm, a poultry business that expanded into vegetable production, benefited from the support. "My business has secured a supply agreement with Save Hyper and has doubled monthly sales from R30 000 to R60 000."

CITY RESTORES SEWER NETWORK ALONG UMHLATHUZANE RIVER

A MAJOR milestone has been achieved by eThekwini Municipality in its efforts to restore the bulk sewer network in the uMhlathuzana River area.

The sewer network was severely damaged during the 2022 floods, resulting in sewer overflows into the river.

Significant progress has been made to repair infrastructure, with the sewer inflow now successfully reconnected to the uMhlathuzana Wastewater Treatment Works.

This achievement has resulted in a significant amount of effluent spillage being contained and prevented from entering the river.

This critical milestone marks an important step in reducing pollution and protecting the local environment. This repair and reconnection ensures that sewage is once again being safely channelled to the treatment works, where it undergoes full processing before discharge.

The City has reached a major milestone to restore the bulk sewer network in the uMhlathuzana River area.

The bulk sewer system, currently under refurbishment, services several major catchment areas including Marianhill, Pinetown, Tshelimnyama, and parts of uMhlathuzana.

Project Executive Sduduzo Mtshali highlighted that this initiative is one of the City's flagship sewer rehabilitation projects, structured into five work packages.

"Commissioning work package one, which includes the manholes and pipelines linking to the treatment facility, is a significant milestone."

The full project is expected to be completed in 2026.

Vandalism affects traffic signals

ETHEKWINI Municipality urges residents to remain vigilant as a surge in vandalism continues to disable traffic signals across the southern region, particularly in the Isiphingo area. The ongoing damage, which includes stolen cables, forced-open control boxes, and removed or broken pole covers, has left several major intersections without functioning traffic lights. Key sites affected include Prospecton/N2 and Prospecton/Wilcox.

These repeated attacks are severely hampering the City's ability to maintain reliable signal operations and repairs are costly.

Faulty or tampered traffic signals can be reported by calling 087 121 9446 or through the eThekwini mobile app.

METRO POLICE OFFICERS HONOURED AT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

THE sterling efforts of Metro Police officers in crime prevention and enforcing by-laws was honoured during the inaugural Excellence Awards held recently at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba thanked the officers saying: "We are grateful for your service. The officers honoured today should inspire others to continue to work hard to deliver excellent service delivery."

Mayor Xaba was joined by eThekwini Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni, Head of Ministry for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Community Safety and Liaison Vuyani Mbese, and Whip of the Security and Emergency Services Committee Councillor Sibusiso Mpanza.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba applauded the Metro Police for a successful year in crime prevention during the inaugural Excellence Awards.

Director of the Metro Police Commissioner Sbonelo Mchunu said the duties of the Metro Police range from crime prevention, traffic management, community engagement and operational effectiveness.

"Our officers have shown unwavering commitment throughout the year. To all nominees and winners, congratulations. Your hard work strengthens the safety and resilience of the City."

Mchunu was also honoured with the Human Capital Award for crime prevention.

Metro Police Human Resources Manager Monty Naidoo said the force is grateful to be led and serve under the Commissioner's leadership.

"The awards ceremony, which was introduced by the Commissioner, is welcomed as the efforts of officers are being recognised," he said.

JUBILATION AS METRO FM MUSIC AWARDS RETURN TO DURBAN

THE Metro FM Music Awards will be held in the City for the next three years.

This announcement was made during an event held at the Oyster Box on 11 December. Hosting the awards from 2026 to 2028, will have a significant impact on the City.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said: "Durban is proud to host the Metro FM Music Awards for the next three years.

This event highlights the City as a hub of creativity and culture, positioning us as an ideal tourism and events destination."

Metro FM is South Africa's leading commercial radio station.

SABC Group Executive for Radio Nada Wotshela said: "We're thrilled to bring the Metro FM Music Awards back to South Africa's favourite playground, Durban. We're excited to celebrate South African music talent in eThekwini, a City known for its exceptional music and entertainment scene, as well as a rich cultural tapestry."

Metro FM officially announced Durban as the host city for the METRO FM Music Awards 2026 during an event on 11 December at the Oyster Box. The countdown to #MMA26 starts now.

The Metro FM Music Awards recognise and reward outstanding contributions to the South African music industry.

Entries are now open, and eligible music must have been released between 28 February 2025 and 28 February 2026. Entry guidelines, rules, and regulations are available on the Metro FM website, where entries can also be submitted.

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

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