

UNPACKING KEY CITY DEVELOPMENTS

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba held a media briefing on 22 February where he unpacked several key matters in the City. These included the unveiling of two statues of struggle stalwarts, key interventions to address homelessness, the City's financial outlook, and the relocation of flood victims.

UNVEILING OF STRUGGLE ICONS STATUES

Mayor Xaba said the unveiling of two statues of struggle stalwarts forms part of efforts to expand tourism infrastructure.

"The nine-metre-long bronze statues of struggle stalwarts Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo will be unveiled in March by President Cyril Ramaphosa. They form part of our commitment to strengthening heritage tourism," said Mayor Xaba.

He said the statues, procured at R11 million each, are already generating excitement.

He reiterated that no financial resources were diverted from service delivery projects to fund the statues.

"These statues were financed through allocations made in previous years' budgets, and therefore did not impact current or ongoing service delivery commitments."

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH COMPASSION

Mayor Xaba said they are intensifying multi-sectoral plan to address homelessness.

"At the heart of this plan is a multi-pronged strategy centred on prevention, compassion, reintegration, and long-term support. We call upon residents of eThekweni to join



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba held a media briefing on 22 February where he addressed key developments affecting the City, including the unveiling of two statues of struggle stalwarts. He is flanked by Chief Financial Officer Sandile Mnguni on the left and Executive Director for Operations Management Lindokuhle Mkhize on the right.

hands with the Municipality to address this challenge."

He said working with various stakeholders, they have adopted an approach of direct engagement with homeless individuals to better understand their needs and implement appropriate interventions.

SETTLING OF FLOOD VICTIMS

Mayor Xaba said to assist displaced flood victims living in temporary emergency accommodation, the Municipality is implementing

a housing project that will deliver close to 1 200 houses. This forms part of the broader Cornubia Housing Development Project, which is expected to yield 25 000 units upon completion.

"I recently conducted an oversight visit to assess progress on the construction of 113 houses for flood victims, which are scheduled for completion next month. To accelerate relocation into family-friendly structures, we have agreed with the provincial and national

Department of Human Settlements that, while permanent construction continues, we will also build 400 temporary residential units to accommodate residents living in temporary emergency accommodation (TEA)."

He said there is a process underway to finalise the refurbishment of 500 units at Montclair Lodge. "I am optimistic that by June this year, more than 1 000 units will be available to accommodate people in TEA."

BEKKER WINS JONSSON WORKWEAR DURBAN OPEN



Oliver Bekker sealed his victory with a final-round 67 to win the Jonsson Workwear Durban Open at 16-under par at the Durban Country Club. He received the trophy from eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba (left) and Nick Jonsson (right).

SOUTH African golfer Oliver Bekker claimed victory at the Jonsson Workwear Durban

Open after finishing 16-under par at the Durban Country Club. Bekker sealed the win

with an impressive final-round 67, securing a two-stroke victory in the weather-shortened 54-hole tournament.

The South African-born golfer, who now resides in Australia, dedicated his victory to his late friend. The tournament, held from 19 to 22 February, attracted leading South African and international professionals to eThekweni. The event was played on the newly refurbished course at the Durban Country Club, which hosted the Investec SA Open Championship.

The Jonsson Workwear Durban Open once again highlighted eThekweni's ability to host world-class sporting events.

The tournament contributed positively to the local economy by boosting tourism, hospitality and small business activity, while also enhancing the City's reputation as a

leading sports destination.

The event further created important youth development opportunities by exposing young local golfers to professional competition and inspiring the next generation of talent.

eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed the success of the tournament, stating: "This championship once again showcases Durban as a premier sporting destination. It not only stimulates our local economy through tourism and job creation but also inspires young people and strengthens the development of golf in our City."

The Mayor also expressed appreciation to Nick Jonsson and tournament partners for their continued investment in world-class sporting infrastructure and for contributing to the City's long-term sports tourism strategy.

SMMES URGED TO APPLY FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SMALL business owners in eThekweni have the chance to secure funding and support to boost their operations as applications open for the second Enterprise and Supplier Development Programme.

eThekweni Municipality calls on eligible businesses to apply before the closing date of 31 March 2026.

The programme is hosted in partnership between eThekweni Municipality and KZN Oils. It targets businesses operating in various sectors including consultancy, stationery supply, marketing and production, catering and water supply, diesel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas supply, oil distribution, spares shops, coding and app development, poultry farming, used oil collection, and electrical services.

Applicants must submit their company registration



Some of the winners of the first Enterprise and Supplier Development Programme last year. Applications for this year's programme are open until 31 March 2026.

documents, a copy of their ID, and a motivation letter of no more than five pages. The letter must outline the business type, reasons for applying, expected outcomes, and three-year projections

with justifications.

Applications can be emailed to marketing@rrgroup.africa

The programme forms part of the Municipality's broader enterprise and supplier development drive.

It aims to strengthen small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs), improve compliance, and unlock growth opportunities through structured support and market access.

The second cohort call follows the successful completion of the first intake of the City's Enterprise and Supplier Development Programme. Last year, 20 SMMEs underwent an intensive eight-month training programme. Of those, 14 emerged as top performers with economically viable and competitive businesses. They received trophies, certificates and financial prizes at a graduation ceremony on 12 December.

The top five performers were awarded cheques ranging from R10 000 to R30 000 to boost their operations.

For enquiries on the programme call 031 570 0500.



R500 MILLION INVESTED AS CITY MOVES TO ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS

A HIGH-level meeting with captains of industry operating in the South Durban Basin (SDB), particularly in the Prospecton area, has resolved to expeditiously address key infrastructure deficiencies in the coming months.

This assurance was given by eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele during a meeting held at Toyota South Africa Motors.

Industry representatives raised concerns on water supply interruptions, traffic management challenges and unpleasant odour, noting that these issues are negatively affecting productivity.

Captains of industry expressed their willingness to assist the Municipality where possible and emphasised the importance of ongoing and transparent communication to enable them to plan effectively for their operations and maintain productivity.



eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele engaged with captains of industry during a high-level meeting at Toyota South Africa Motors to address infrastructure challenges in the South Durban Basin.

Mbhele, who was accompanied by senior Municipal executives,

committed that the Municipality will resolve the outstanding issues within the

coming months.

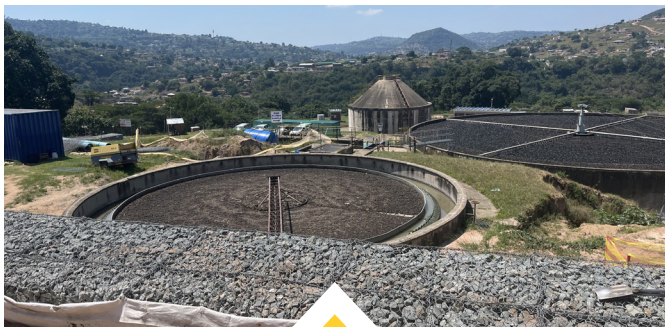
He further indicated that approximately R500 million has already been invested in infrastructure improvements within the SDB.

“About 90 percent of the electrical infrastructure has been replaced, including transformers. Road markings have been restored, and canal maintenance has been undertaken. Two of the three pump stations are operational, while one is currently being upgraded,” he said.

Mbhele underscored his commitment to strengthening communication and collaboration with industry stakeholders.

He emphasised that major cities are built through strong partnerships and that narrowing the trust deficit is key to improving cooperation and transparency.

REPAIR OF TWO WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS



The City is making steady progress on the repair and refurbishment of the KwaNdengezi Wastewater Treatment Works, above.

STEADY progress is being made on the repair and refurbishment of the Umbilo and KwaNdengezi Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW).

These plants sustained significant damage during previous floods. Immediately after the floods, temporary systems were put in place to ensure continuity of essential wastewater services while detailed damage assessments

were conducted.

Progress to date includes civil construction works within the plants such as the rehabilitation and construction of internal access roads at the Umbilo WWTW. The installation of stormwater pipelines to improve stormwater management at both plants is making significant progress.

Project Executive Siduduzo

Mtshali said they are intentionally installing resilient infrastructure designed to withstand future flood events.

“We are ensuring upgraded road construction layers with stronger sub-base materials installed. We have also installed new stormwater pipes which are essential to improving drainage capacity.”

As part of civil work, the contractor has also reinforced embankments to prevent erosion and stabilise vulnerable sections.

Technical teams are also bringing major equipment back online and have achieved the restoration of the trickling filters and the cleaning and refurbishment of treatment tanks to improve plant performance and reliability. Both plants are expected to be recommissioned this year.

RATES REBATE RENEWAL SEASON OPEN

BENEFICIARIES who receive rates rebates are encouraged to submit their renewal applications before 30 April 2026.

eThekweni Municipality, in terms of the criteria set out in the Rates Policy, may exempt a specific category of owners of properties, or the owners of a specific category of properties, from the payment of a rate levied on their property or grant a rebate on or a reduction in the rates payable.

Renewal application forms will accompany a customers' Municipal bill on the e-Services platform. These must be filled out and submitted on the platform, at the nearest Sizakala Centre or emailed to ratesrebates@durban.gov.za



MILESTONE OF INNOVATION CELEBRATED AT SHESHISA ACCELERATOR GRADUATION

MARKING a milestone of growth and innovation, 21 female businesswomen graduated after successfully completing the second SHeshisa Accelerator Programme.

The programme is hosted by Innovate Durban who receives funding from the City's Economic Development Directorate. The programme achieved a 100 percent completion rate, reflecting the dedication, resilience, and determination of everyone who participated. Showing the impact of the programme, 94 percent of the participating businesses adopted digital tools to enhance their operations, while 100 percent of founders introduced innovation into a new aspect of their business thinking, including the development of five new products and services. Additionally, 94 percent of the businesses strengthened or refined their brand identity while 94



Women entrepreneurs celebrated after completing the SHeshisa Accelerator Programme, marking a milestone of innovation, growth, and 100 percent completion success.

percent of the participants adopted at least one new marketing channel to expand their reach.

Senior Research Advisor from the City's Economic Development Directorate Dr Nokwazi Makanya said the SHeshisa programme complements the City's initiative to empower women-

owned businesses to thrive.

Siphiwe Sibiya, founder of Sparkle n' Glow Skincare Products, shared how the programme helped her transition from running her business as a part-time activity to managing it more strategically. "I was exposed to various strategic marketing approaches."

ETHEKWINI TO GAIN A NEW WARD FOLLOWING DEMARICATION PROCESS



Executive Director in the Office of the City Manager Siphon Cele addressed residents who attended a final meeting where outcomes of the ward delimitation process were unpacked.

EMANATING from the ward delimitation process, the number of wards in eThekweni Municipality will increase

from 111 to 112, with the additional ward to be located in the northern region. The Mophela area in Ward 5

and a portion of Ward 105 will be incorporated under the uMkhambathini Municipality.

The new boundaries form part of the preparations for the upcoming local government elections scheduled for November.

These changes will be communicated with affected businesses and residents by the Independent Electoral Commission. Consultative meetings regarding the ward delimitation process started in 2023. The Municipal Demarcation Board spearheaded the outer and inner boundaries process.

STRENGTHENING OPERATIONS OF FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER SMMEs

A RECENT Cluster Connect Session was hosted on 19 February to provide a platform for small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) in the footwear and leather sectors to reflect on their contribution to business growth.

The session also assessed the effectiveness of existing cluster programmes to ensure growth of the sector moving forward.

It was hosted by the South African Footwear and Leather Export Council, in collaboration with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition with support from the City's Economic Development Directorate.

By creating space for open dialogue, the event enabled entrepreneurs to share practical experiences, highlight challenges, and propose improvements to strengthen the sector. Industry leaders and key stakeholders participated in constructive discussions focused on value chain constraints, practical interventions, expanding market access, enhancing knowledge sharing, and improving product design support.

Emphasis was also placed on the importance of integrating circular economy principles within the footwear and leather cluster. Economic Development Programme Manager Nelisiwe Magubane reiterated the importance of regularly evaluating support programmes aimed at uplifting SMMEs.

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