ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

19 May 2026 [Issue 461]

COMMISSIONING OF SOUTHERN AQUEDUCT WORK PACKAGE 1 MARKS MAJOR MILESTONE

The commissioning of Work Package 1 of the Southern Aqueduct project has marked a major milestone in strengthening water supply in the City.

ETHEKWINI Municipality is pleased to announce the successful commissioning of Work Package 1 of the Southern Aqueduct project. This marks a significant milestone in the City's ongoing efforts to strengthen bulk water infrastructure and improve water security for communities in the south of the City.

The newly commissioned section consists of approximately four kilometres of new steel pipeline from Shallcross to Westcliff, replacing the old and abandoned pre-stressed pipeline.

The upgraded pipeline now connects the Westcliff Reservoir and Chatsworth Reservoir No.1, forming a critical part of the broader Southern Aqueduct system upgrade.

The commissioning of Work Package 1 has resulted in the system having greater capacity to serve residents supplied by the Westcliff Reservoir, Chatsworth Reservoir No.1, and the downstream reservoirs in uMlazi.

Executive Director for Technical Services Ednick Msweli said the commissioning of Work Package 1 is an important step towards securing sustainable water supply infrastructure for the City.

"The successful commissioning of this section of the Southern Aqueduct demonstrates the Municipality's commitment to investing in infrastructure that improves the reliability and resilience of our bulk water supply network. While this phase delivers an immediate improvement to system performance, the completion of the remaining sections later this year will significantly enhance the aqueduct's overall capacity to meet both current and future water demands for communities across the south and central areas," said Msweli.

Work Package 3 also remains on track for commissioning at the end of May. Construction of the remaining work packages is progressing well and is expected to be completed later this year.

This includes six-kilometre section from Westville to Shallcross and an additional six kilometres from Durban Heights Water Treatment Works to Westville.

The Southern Aqueduct supplies water to approximately 1.2 million people and is one of the City's most critical bulk water infrastructure projects aimed at improving bulk water network, reducing water losses, and enhancing service delivery resilience.

The existing bulk pipeline network is more than 50 years old and had deteriorated significantly over time, becoming increasingly prone to leaks and failures.

While work has been underway, the Municipality has achieved measurable savings in water losses during construction.

Teams identified and repaired leaks on the existing pipeline network.

The R1.2 billion project will bring the City closer to achieving a reliable bulk water network. Once completed, the upgraded 24-kilometre bulk pipeline will supply 33 reservoirs and significantly improve water provision to communities in the southern and central areas.

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ETHEKWINI TRANSPORT AUTHORITY: FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS IN BUILDING A SMARTER, SAFER, AND MORE CONNECTED TRANSPORT NETWORK

OVER the past five years, the eThekwini Transport Authority has made significant strides in transforming the City's transport landscape through strategic infrastructure investment, innovation, safety interventions, and progressive mobility planning.

These milestones reflect the City's commitment to building an integrated, efficient, safe, and sustainable transport system that supports economic growth, urban regeneration, and improved quality of life for all residents.

ADVANCING TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

A key focus area has been the implementation of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), which seeks to create connected, accessible urban spaces centred around public transport corridors.

The pilot that is being implemented in Pinetown will reshape how people live, work, and move by encouraging mixed-use development, reducing travel distances, and improving access to public transport services.

This initiative has allowed the City to assess practical interventions, gather operational insights, and refine strategies that can be replicated across other strategic transport nodes in eThekwini.

SUPPORTING INNER CITY REGENERATION

Transport infrastructure continues to play a vital role in supporting the regeneration of Durban's inner city.

Strategic upgrades to road networks, pedestrian facilities, public transport systems, and traffic management have contributed to improving accessibility, supporting commercial activity, and creating a more functional urban environment.

REDESIGNING PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR THE FUTURE

Over the past five years, significant work has gone into redesigning public transport systems to improve efficiency, reliability, and user experience.

This includes route planning improvements and operational integration efforts as part of the broader Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN), and the development of systems such as closed-circuit television cameras on buses aimed at creating a more seamless public transport network for commuters.

LAUNCH OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT CALL CENTRE

The establishment of the Public Transport Call Centre has strengthened communication between commuters and the City.

Channels such as telephone, WhatsApp and email provides residents with improved access to transport information, service updates and customer support, enhancing responsiveness and service delivery.

Phone: 087 121 9446
WhatsApp: 071 374 1862
Email: Info@godurban.co.za

ELECTRIFICATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

As part of its sustainability agenda, discussions and plans have reached an advanced stage for the City to shift toward the electrification of public transport.

This milestone supports environmental objectives by reducing emissions, lowering operational costs over time, and positioning eThekwini to embrace cleaner mobility solutions.

SHEPSTONE ROAD CONVERSION

The successful conversion of Shepstone Road marks another important infrastructure milestone.

This intervention has improved traffic flow, enhanced road safety, and strengthened network efficiency within and around the Point precinct.

SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH CIPT 2024–2029

The development of the Comprehensive Integrated Public Transport (CIPT) Plan 2024–2029 sets a clear strategic direction for the next phase of transport transformation.

The plan outlines key priorities aimed at improving public transport accessibility, strengthening modal integration, and responding to evolving mobility needs across the City.

SAFER ROADS THROUGH GUARDRAIL AND SPEED HUMP IMPLEMENTATION

Road safety remains a core priority.

The implementation of guardrails and speed humps across strategic locations has helped reduce risks for both motorists and pedestrians, contributing to safer road environments, particularly in high-risk areas.

During the past two financial years, the City has implemented approximately 130 traffic calming projects across multiple wards, with an estimated investment of R12 million.

The projects are aimed at reducing speeding, improving pedestrian protection, and enhancing safety in residential areas, school zones and other high-risk locations.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL INNOVATION

The City has continued to modernise traffic management through signal innovations designed to improve traffic flow and network responsiveness.

Traffic vandalism has been a huge challenge within the City, and in the past three years approximately 6000 traffic light repairs have been done costing the City R40 000.

These advancements support smarter traffic control, reduced congestion, and more efficient movement across key intersections.

These achievements represent more than infrastructure milestones. They reflect a broader vision of creating a transport system that is integrated, inclusive, resilient, and future ready.

As the City of Durban grows, evolves and progresses, the focus from a transport perspective remains on innovation, safety, sustainability, and delivering solutions that meet these needs.

DURBAN'S COASTLINE GETS MAJOR TOURIST SAFETY BOOST

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba was joined by Tourism Deputy Minister Makhotso Sotyu to officially launch the Coastal and Tourism Division. The division will focus on ensuring the safety of tourists and visitors along Durban's coastline.

ETHEKWINI is the first city in South Africa to launch a dedicated policing division focused specifically on tourist safety.

The Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA), in partnership with eThekwini Municipality and the Department of Tourism, officially launched the Beach Safety Initiative at Durban's beachfront on 12 May.

This first-of-its-kind programme is aimed at strengthening safety and security for tourists and visitors. As part of the launch, the TBCSA, funded by the Tourism Marketing South Africa Collaborative Fund, handed over resources to the City, reaffirming the importance of public-private partnerships. This included a 14-seater Kombi, five bakkies, six quad bikes, two trailers, and staff uniforms for a dedicated Coastal and Tourism Division under the Durban Metro Police.

Furthermore, the vehicles are equipped with advanced technology linked to the Department of Home Affairs and other critical departments often utilised by tourists.

The initiative is driven by the eThekwini Presidential Working Group.

WATER AND SANITATION PROGRESS UPDATE

CITY leadership held a media briefing on 18 May to unpack progress made to address critical sanitation issues in the City. This included an update on the ongoing sewer overflow incident affecting Margaret Mncadi Avenue following technical failures at the Mahatma Gandhi Pumpstation.

Executive Director of Technical Services Ednick Msweli explained that the pumpstation experienced technical failures affecting critical electrical and mechanical components required for normal pumping operations. "These failures are attributed to excessive rags and foreign objects damaging the screens and clogging the pumps. Since the incident began, our sanitation teams, together with specialist technicians and engineers, have been working round the clock to stabilise operations at the pumpstation and restore full pumping capacity as urgently and safely as possible."

EThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele and Executive Director of Technical Services Ednick Msweli during a media briefing, where an update was given on a host of water and sanitation related matters.

He said during the repair and recommissioning processes, additional technical complications were identified, resulting in further delays in restoring full operational capacity.

Repair work is currently underway on affected infrastructure, while additional equipment and specialised components have been sourced to strengthen reliability and improve operational stability at the station.

In parallel, the City has intensified mitigation measures in the affected areas.

OVER 530 INFORMAL TRADING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

TO UNLOCK retail market opportunities, support entrepreneurship, stimulate the informal economy, and create sustainable livelihoods, the Economic Development Directorate has opened applications for more than 530 informal trading stalls, kiosks, and storage management spaces in all regions.

Applications close on 5 June at 12pm.

Potential applicants must trade on a full-time basis, be unemployed or not operating another business elsewhere, and must not already have a trading stall within eThekwini Municipality.

Applications must include:

- Application letter stating trading activity or product to be sold
- South African ID copy or valid work permit for foreigners
- Proof of residence
- Gender details
- Proof of disability where applicable.

Applications must be submitted to the relevant Informal Economy regional offices:

- South: 16 Inwabi Road, Isiphingo - 031 902 2024
- CBD: 126 Johannes Road, Warwick Junction - 031 322 8673/2
- Inner and Outer West: Pinetown Civic Centre, 60 Kings Road - 031 311 6287
- North: KwaMashu E1139 Ntombela Road - 031 322 1837/031 311 4612
- Upper North: 151 Wick Street, Verulam - 031 322 1781
- Coastal: 40 Boscombe Joc Terrace, North Beach - 031 322 9686
- Retail Markets South: 100 Warwick Avenue - 031 322 9690.

RESURGENCE GLOBAL TO HOST AFRICA DAY VIRTUAL SUMMIT

IN a bid to spark meaningful conversations around economic growth, leadership, investment, innovation, diaspora partnerships and Africa's global influence, the reSURGEnce Global movement will host a Global Africa Virtual Summit on 25 May to celebrate Africa Day under the theme; 'The Continent and Global Africans on the Rise'.

The summit will bring together influential African and diaspora leaders, featuring renowned speakers including former Zambian Vice President Nevers Mumba; global youth advocate and grandson of Nelson Mandela, Ndaba Mandela; as well as Ron Daniels from the United States. Joining them will be Diaspora Commission representative Abike Dabiri-Erewa; African Diaspora Commission from Kenya representative Shem Ochuodho; and eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele.

Reverend Dennis Dillon, reSURGEnce Global Chair, said the summit will unpack critical discussions on strengthening Africa's relationship with the diaspora, unlocking investment opportunities, advancing inclusive economic development, youth empowerment, leadership, innovation and building stronger global African networks.

Rev Dillon further stated that the summit forms part of the build-up campaign for the upcoming reSURGEnce Durban Conference 2026, themed 'Access. Connect and Thrive', taking place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in July. The conference aims to position Durban and Africa as hubs for trade, collaboration, entrepreneurship, and global partnerships.

The summit will stream across multiple regions, including New York, California, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa, enabling global participation.

Business leaders and community, entrepreneurs, and the African diaspora are encouraged to attend.

REGISTER HERE

Time Zones:

- 10am - New York
- 7am - California
- 3pm - West Africa
- 4pm - Central Africa and Southern Africa
- 5pm - East Africa

LAUNCH OF BUSINESS TOURISM AWARDS

The countdown has begun for the 5th Durban Business Tourism Awards, which was launched during the closing of Africa's Travel Indaba. The awards aim to recognise and support tourism businesses that continue to contribute towards the growth of Durban's visitor economy. Tourism businesses were invited earlier this year to submit applications for various award categories. During the launch, it was announced that the awards ceremony will take place on 18 June at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, where deserving businesses will be honoured for their contributions to the industry. In addition to recognition, winners are also expected to receive support that will further empower and elevate their businesses.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said reaching the fifth edition of the awards is not only a celebration of longevity, but also a reflection of the growth, resilience, and determination of Durban's tourism sector.

"Over the past five years, these awards have evolved into a respected platform that honours excellence, innovation, and service within one of the City's most important economic sectors. We have seen increasing participation across various categories, stronger public interest, and greater recognition for local tourism products," said Councillor Ntuli.

The 5th instalment of the Durban Tourism Business Awards is set to take place 18 June at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre.

DRIVING SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH

THE CITY will host a series of Business Empowerment Workshops throughout May as part of efforts to equip micro, small, and medium enterprises and co-operatives with business information, development support, and access to opportunities.

Upcoming workshops are scheduled as follows:

- 26 May - Wards 06 and 91, Magaba Hall (Mpumalanga)
- 27 May - Ward 44, Machobeni Community Hall (Inanda)
- 28 May - Ward 105, Mdumezulu Skills Centre
- 29 May - Ward 1, KwaXimba Community Hall.

All workshops will run from 10am to 3pm.

Businesses interested in attending can register by emailing nosizwe.mbunquka@durban.gov.za or call 031 311 4500.

ALBERT PARK YOUTH GRADUATE AS NEWLY QUALIFIED ARTISANS

Twenty-seven youth from Albert Park graduated as qualified artisans through the City's ward-based Skills Development Programme.

TWENTY-SEVEN young people from Albert Park and surrounding areas have graduated as qualified artisans in Plumbing and Electrical Engineering through eThekwini Municipality's ward-based Skills Development Programme.

One of the graduates, Siphelele Hadebe, expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

"I am grateful for the opportunity granted to us. As a student, I received the opportunity to learn on site as well as supervisory skills," she said.

Hadebe, a graduate in Social Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and founder of David M Trading Enterprises, said she hopes her journey will inspire others and create opportunities for more young people. She plans to continue to grow her business which was established in 2025.

Ward 32 Councillor Protas Mngonyama said the initiative was established through a partnership with the Municipality, provincial government, the ward committee, and residents to strengthen youth and skills development in the area.

"We have worked with the provincial government and the Ward 32 Committee, including residents, to establish this platform. It presents a much-needed rejuvenation to the ward-based Skills Development Programme," said Councillor Mngonyama.

WARD DELIMITATION PROCESS COMPLETED

ETHEKWINI Municipality and the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) held a community meeting on 15 May, to provide an update on the 2024/25 municipal ward delimitation process.

Areas affected by the new delimitation include Wards 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 30, 31, 42, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 72, 74, 75, 91, 107, and 108.

Executive Director in the Office of the City Manager Sipho Cele expressed appreciation that the process has been finalised.

"We are expecting one additional ward, which will bring the total number of wards to 112 in eThekwini Municipality."

He added that the Municipality consulted various stakeholders to ensure fair and democratic participation.

Extensive consultation and open discussions are key to implementing a fair process and ensuring that stakeholders are satisfied with the demarcation outcomes.

Addressing the meeting, MDB KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Coordinator Mthobisi Manzini said written objections from wards were considered during the delimitation process.

Manzini added that the process is now in the hands of the Independent Electoral Commission, which will educate residents from affected wards and begin preparations for the upcoming Local Government Elections taking place in November.

The ward delimitation process has been completed in the City, bringing the total numbers of wards in eThekwini to 112.

ANNUAL PROPERTY CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE

ETHEKWINI Municipality will host the third annual Property Conference on 21 and 22 May, under the theme, 'From Access to Assets: Scaling Bankable Development on Public Land', with a sharpened emphasis on implementation, delivery, and scale.

The event will bring together property sector experts, municipal and provincial government decision-makers, developers, investors, academic and financial institutions, legal and regulatory specialists, built environment specialists and media.

Building on the massive success of the first two events, the conference forms part of the Municipality's broader programme of land-led economic development and investment promotion linked to the Proactive Land Release Strategy.

The central objective is to demonstrate how released municipal land is converted into bankable, income-generating property developments at scale, and how metropolitan municipalities can act as facilitators of capital formation, investor confidence and inclusive economic growth.

A major highlight of the event will be closed-door deal rooms, which will identify and discuss real time development and investment opportunities.

Thapelo Mmusinyane, Director of the City's Property Valuations and Management Directorate, explained: "The primary objectives of the 2026 Property Conference are to demonstrate how municipal land is converted into financeable assets through appropriate lease structuring, governance certainty, and market validation. It also aims to showcase projects that have progressed beyond award into financial close, construction and operation, and identify the factors that enabled bankability."

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

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