ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

09 June 2026 [Issue 464]

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT TO POSITION DURBAN ON GLOBAL STAGE

THE City has taken a bold step to elevate Durban's global footprint, with eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba hosting an inaugural engagement with 18 Consuls General based in KwaZulu-Natal. The engagement was held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 5 June.

The high-level meeting marked a decisive push to position eThekwini as a competitive international player, anchored on five strategic priorities namely: enhancing economic diplomacy, strengthening city-to-city partnerships, promoting Durban globally, advancing knowledge exchange, and mobilising development support.

Mayor Xaba emphasised that integrating diplomacy into the City's development agenda is key to unlocking international markets and investment opportunities. He highlighted Durban's strategic geographic location.

"We have aligned local priorities with national foreign policy and global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and African Union Agenda 2063.

The expansion of the harbour will further cement Durban's role as a premier maritime gateway to the African continent," said Mayor Xaba.

To deepen co-operation, the City will host an annual Diplomatic Corps Summit focused on trade, infrastructure, climate resilience, and the ocean economy.

This will be complemented by quarterly thematic roundtable engagements tackling key sectors including the green economy, climate action, maritime logistics, tourism, innovation, technology, and smart cities.

Mayor Xaba reiterated that these efforts are aimed at boosting investment inflows and expanding partnership agreements.

The engagement drew participation from Consuls General representing countries including China, France, the United States of America, India, the United Kingdom, Spain, and several others, alongside industry leaders.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in KwaZulu-Natal, Alain Gringoire, welcomed the initiative, noting the importance of collaboration in driving inclusive growth and mutual benefit.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba reaffirmed his commitment to collaborate with Consuls General on investment, trade, tourism, and other key areas during a high-level engagement recently.

LAUNCH OF WORKSTREAM 8 OF PEWG TO BOOST INVESTMENT

ETHEKWINI Municipality's economic recovery drive gained momentum with the launch of Workstream 8 on Economic Development under the Presidential eThekwini Working Group (PeWG).

The initiative aims to boost investment, create jobs, and strengthen eThekwini's long-term growth.

The initiative was unveiled at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre recently and was led by PeWG Co-Chairperson, Michael Mabuyakhulu.

This workstream aims to accelerate investment, job creation, and long-term economic growth in the City.

The new workstream will be co-chaired by Victor Vele and Lindokuhle Mkhize.

It will focus on increasing private sector participation in infrastructure development, strengthening manufacturing and industrial zones, reducing delays in development planning processes, and addressing urban decay and problem buildings across the City. Dedicated Focused Intervention Teams, supported by business and private sector partners, will be established to fast-track implementation and improve co-ordination between government and industry.

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FIVE YEARS OF ADVANCING CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE, AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

OVER the past five years, the Waste Management Directorate has made significant strides in delivering efficient, reliable, and sustainable waste management services across the City. Highlighting these gains is eThekwini's Five-Year Service Delivery Milestones campaign being rolled out under the theme: Asimile Siyaqhuba: Resilience Through Adversity.

The campaign highlights the gains made in ensuring efficient and effective service delivery during the 2021 to 2026 term of office.

As the leading provider of comprehensive waste solutions, the Waste Management Directorate operates an extensive network comprising 32 depots, six transfer stations, four landfill sites, 22 garden sites with selected public recycling drop-offs, two landfill gas projects, and three leachate treatment plants. This robust infrastructure enables the delivery of essential services to residential, industrial, and commercial customers.

The directorate has consistently provided weekly refuse collection services to over one million households, meeting key service delivery objectives while maintaining high standards of cleanliness. City streets are serviced daily, with the central business district cleaned up to three times per day, supported by high-pressure washing and mechanical sweeping operations. Recognising the unique challenges within informal settlements, the directorate has worked closely with contractors to ensure weekly collection and street sweeping services in these areas.

Illegal dumping continues to pose challenges; however, it is being addressed proactively through the Illegal Dumping Eradication Programme. This programme is implemented through co-ordinated joint operations and dedicated enforcement efforts. In many instances, the City has partnered with stakeholders such as Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa to rehabilitate affected sites through environmental restoration initiatives, including tree planting, thereby enhancing environmental integrity and community wellbeing.

Over the past five years, substantial volumes of waste have been collected annually, contributing to cleaner, healthier, and safer urban spaces. Continuous operational improvements and strengthened regional co-ordination have further enhanced service delivery across all areas of the City.

Beyond waste collection, the directorate has prioritised environmental education and meaningful community engagement. Programmes such as the Back-to-School initiative and the introduction of "Nono," the City's waste awareness mascot, have encouraged learners to adopt responsible waste practices from an early age. Public awareness campaigns, such as #BinIt, have further promoted proper waste management and sustainability, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within communities.

Sustainability remains central to the directorate's mission. Recycling programmes and waste diversion initiatives form the foundation of the directorate's transition towards a more circular waste economy. Concerted efforts have been made to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills, supporting broader environmental and climate objectives. E-waste and bulk waste drives have provided residents with safe and environmentally compliant disposal options for electronic and bulky household items. These initiatives have helped curb illegal dumping, promote recycling and resource recovery, and advance the vision of a cleaner, healthier City for all residents.

The directorate also manages four strategically located landfill sites that collectively receive approximately 900 000 tonnes of general waste annually, ensuring environmentally responsible disposal and compliance with regulatory standards. Ongoing investment in infrastructure and technology has strengthened operational capacity, while maintaining strict adherence to environmental legislation and best practice standards.

CITY GEARS UP FOR 99TH COMRADES MARATHON

The City will host a Comrades Marathon fan park at the Kings Park Athletics Stadium on 14 June from 4.30am to 5.30pm where the public can gather to watch live race coverage.

THE City is ready to welcome the 21 600 athletes participating in the 99th Comrades Marathon as well as the anticipated 65 000 spectators.

The Comrades Marathon takes place on Sunday, 14 June with an "up run" this year, meaning runners will be making the trek from Durban to Pietermaritzburg.

The Comrades Marathon continues to be a major economic driver for the City, attracting thousands of visitors who contribute significantly to the local economy through spending on accommodation, transport, hospitality, retail, and tourism-related activities. Small businesses are expected to benefit from the influx of visitors during the marathon weekend with around 1 300 jobs to be created.

The Waste Management Directorate has been appointed as the official service provider for the Comrades Marathon. On race day, the directorate will deploy cleaning teams along the eThekwini boundary route, from the race start at the Durban City Hall to Cato Ridge (R103). In addition, waste receptacles will be strategically placed along the route to encourage responsible waste disposal by spectators and supporters.

In terms of safety, Metro Police patrol officers will be deployed at key sites.

To enhance the race-day experience,the City will host a Comrades Marathon fan park at the Kings Park Athletics Stadium from 4.30am to 5.30pm where the public can gather to watch live race coverage and cheer on participants throughout the day.

The public is also urged to note the following road closures on the day:

- Dr Pixley KaSeme Street
- Joseph Nduli Road
- N3 West Off-Ramp to King Cetshwayo Highway contra-flow via 45th Cutting to the M13 and Cowies Hill
- Josiah Gumede Road, Pinetown
- M13 through Kloof, Gillitts, and Old Main Road into Hillcrest
- R103 towards Cato Ridge via Doonrug Road.

TWO CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE LAUNCHED TARGETING THE YOUTH

ETHEKWINI Municipality has taken a decisive step toward inclusive economic growth with the launch of two Human Capital Centres of Excellence in Craigieburn and Illovu.

The facilities are designed to address youth unemployment while positioning the City as a driver of future-ready talent.

Strategically located in underserved communities, the centres serve as catalysts for economic participation, linking young people directly to the digital and enterprise economy.

Equipped with high-speed Wi-Fi, modern computer labs, and access to e-recruitment platforms, they provide practical pathways to skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba described the initiative as a targeted intervention to unlock potential and strengthen the City's economic base. "Investing in youth skills is essential to building a competitive, resilient, and inclusive economy," he said.

With strategic hubs in Craigieburn and Illovu, the Municipality is connecting the youth to digital skills, enterprise, and employment pathways.

As part of a network of 31 Centres of Excellence, the facilities are expected to stimulate local enterprise and support innovation, ensuring workforce readiness is ligned with industry needs. The launch reinforces the eThekwini's commitment to capital development and youth empowerment.

METRO POLICE DRONE TECHNOLOGY

IN A major step toward modernising law enforcement, Council authorised the Metro Police Service to submit a funding application to the Criminal Assets Recovery Account, established under the Prevention of Organised Crime Act. The report was approved during a Council meeting on 4 June.

The proposed funding will enable two strategic interventions:

•A Metro Police Training College, designed to centralise recruit training, advanced tactical instruction, specialised unit development, K9 training, and advanced driver training.

•The introduction of smart policing drone technology to support aerial surveillance, monitoring of high-crime areas, search and rescue operations, crowd management at major events, and environmental compliance monitoring.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT SHUTS DOWN ILLEGAL BUSINESSES

ETHEKWINI Municipality executed a massive, multi-departmental enforcement blitz in Craigieburn, Umkomaas, on 4 June signalling a fierce crackdown on regulatory non-compliance.

In a co-ordinated, high-visibility sweep, municipal teams were out in full force to inspect local businesses and enforce strict adherence to City by-laws.

The high-visibility operation resulted in the immediate arrest of two spaza shop owners and the closure of two non-compliant shops.

Law enforcement officials detained the operators on the spot after they failed to produce valid business licences, as well being in the country illegally.

The City executed a massive, multi-departmental enforcement blitz to ensure business compliance in Umkomaas recently.

The joint initiative brought together various municipal departments, focusing closely on business licensing, health standards, safety regulations, and immigration status.

Officials also audited informal and formal trading sites across Craigieburn to root out illegal operations that undermine compliant local businesses.

Through the blitz, the Municipality aimed to restore public order, protect consumers from unregulated goods, and ensure that all economic activities contribute fairly and legally to the local economy.

The Municipality is making it clear that compliance with local regulations and national laws is non-negotiable.

EThekwini Municipality urges all business owners to urgently regularise their operations. Safe, legal, and compliant business practices are essential to avoiding penalties, closure, and possible arrest.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME OPENS DOORS FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Wicky Noshwana, founder of La Oracle Boutique and Beauty, participated in a six-month learning exchange programme in China that exposed 11 Durban entrepreneurs to global business practices.

A SIX-MONTH learning exchange programme in China has opened doors for 11 entrepreneurs selected to participate in the Municipal Infrastructure and Business Exchange Programme. The programme was facilitated through a partnership between the City's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Division, eThekwini Municipal Academy, the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority, and the Chinese Culture and International Educational Exchange Centre.

Hosted in Wenzhou, China, from May to October last year, the programme exposed participants to e-commerce, digital trade, manufacturing, logistics, and international business practices.

Since returning to South Africa, participant Wicky Noshwana, has established valuable relationships with manufacturers, suppliers and business professionals.

TOP 20 ENTREPRENEURS ANNOUNCED FOR PROJECT 10X PROGRAMME

TWENTY emerging entrepreneurs from across eThekwini have secured a place in the prestigious Project 10X Unicorn Programme after being announced during a launch event held on 5 June.

The entrepreneurs were selected from more than 200 applicants.

The programme is a partnership between the City, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs, KZN Oils, and the RR Foundation.

The beneficiaries will embark on a 10-month enterprise and supplier development programme offering mentorship, incubation support, business development training, and financial assistance aimed at accelerating growth and improving market readiness.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee, Councillor Thembo Ntuli, said the initiative is creating opportunities for entrepreneurs to become active participants in the mainstream economy.

One of the beneficiaries, Nozipho Memela, founder of governance, risk, compliance, and audit software company Dimeri AI, described her selection as a significant milestone.

The top 20 beneficiaries of the 2026 Project 10X Unicorn Programme celebrated their selection on 5 June.

CITY REWARDS PERFORMANCE THAT PROMOTES SERVICE DELIVERY

THE Employee Service Excellence Awards, held recently at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, positioned workforce excellence as a strategic driver of service delivery and organisational performance. By recognising high-performing employees, the Municipality is strengthening accountability, boosting morale, and accelerating a culture of results-driven service. Employees ranging from frontline operations to leadership positions were honoured for consistently going beyond expectations to deliver reliable, efficient services to residents.

Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhla Madlala said the awards reinforce performance standards aligned to community needs.

"These recognitions set the benchmark for service delivery excellence and signal our commitment to building a responsive and capable Municipality. They drive a culture where performance matters and results are felt by every resident," he said.

The awards programme showcased over 24 categories recognising innovation, leadership, and operational excellence.

EThekwini Municipality honoured its high-performing workforce whose dedication drives service excellence and strengthens delivery to communities.

DFF RISING STARS TO SHINE AT DURBAN JULY

NINE emerging designers selected for the 2026 Durban Fashion Fair (DFF) Rising Stars Collection are preparing to showcase their talent on one of South Africa's premier fashion platforms, the Hollywoodbets Durban July, taking place on 4 July at the Greyville Racecourse under the theme Country Allure.

The designers are Pinky Dlamini (Modesta), Athenkosi Mfungula (LEMFVX), Kireshen Chetty, Neliswa Dlamini (Nellie D Designs), Siphesihle Khumalo (Diablotic Off-Ice Cotton), Sphumelele Shange (Mdimour Fashion), Karla Lortan, Karl Flynn (Nyuka Creations), and Nosipho Ndlovu (Mnguni Empire).

The DFF Rising Stars Collection features designers who have successfully completed the 10-month DFF Mentorship Programme, an empowerment initiative under eThekwini Municipality's Fashion Development Programme. The programme equips emerging fashion entrepreneurs with industry exposure, skills development, and business support to strengthen and grow their brands. Their creations will be showcased on the Celebration Stage at the Hollywoodbets Durban July, providing exposure to thousands of fashion enthusiasts, industry leaders, and potential buyers.

To further support their businesses, the Hollywood Foundation has committed R250 000 in investment funding for equipment and operational needs for the designers.

Nine selected Durban Fashion Fair Rising Stars will showcase their designs at the Hollywoodbets Durban July taking place on 4 July at the Greyville Racecourse.

APPLY TO BE PART OF SMART ENERGY PILOT

QUALIFYING households across eThekwini are invited to apply to be part of a smart energy pilot designed to help homes use energy more intelligently. Applications are now open and close at the end of August for Project Smart Solar, an eThekwini Municipality-backed smart energy pilot. There are only 280 spots available.

Project Smart Solar also includes a local skills development component. Youth recruited via the eThekwini Municipal Academy database will be upskilled by professional installation teams and employed to support installations where possible.

Homes with solar and battery systems are especially encouraged to apply.

To apply, click here: https://plentify.io/project-smart-solar/

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

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