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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GREENLIGHT FOR CITY TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

IN A LANDMARK development for South African municipalities, eThekwini Municipality has become the first metro in the country to receive approval to generate its own electricity from renewable energy sources.

This follows the announcement by Electricity and Energy Minister Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa of a Section 34 Ministerial Determination that empowers eThekwini Municipality to procure new generation capacity to meet its growing energy demands.

Speaking at a joint media briefing on 8 August, Minister Ramokgopa commended eThekwini for its persistence and strategic foresight, noting that the approval marks a major step forward in municipal energy autonomy and financial sustainability.

A Bold Energy Shift: 400MW of New Capacity

The approved programme will enable the Municipality to procure 400 megawatts (MW) of new generation capacity:

- 100 MW Solar PV
- 300 MW Gas-to-Power (GTP)

The focus is on dispatchable, reliable, and low-carbon energy technologies that will strengthen the City's energy resilience.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba hailed the announcement as a historic milestone in eThekwini's energy roadmap.

"This is a game-changer for our City. It enhances energy security, reduces dependence on the national grid, and positions eThekwini as a leader in sustainable urban development. The programme is projected to save the Municipality R5 billion over the duration of the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), translating to R250 million in annual savings," he said.

The programme is also expected to:

- Unlock R8.5 billion in private investment;
- Create approximately 2 200 jobs during construction and operation phases;
- Reduce eThekwini's reliance on the national grid by 18% once fully operational.

"This initiative is not just about energy, it's about economic growth, industrial stimulation, and future-proofing our City," added Mayor Xaba.

The procurement process will be rolled out in phases:

- Solar PV Request for Proposals (RFP) to be issued in December 2025, with construction expected by September 2027.
- Gas-to-Power RFP to follow in 2026, with further details to be announced in due course.

This move places the City at the forefront of municipal energy innovation, setting a precedent for other cities to follow.

Electricity and Energy Minister Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa and eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba announced a historic milestone as eThekwini becomes the first metro in South Africa approved to generate its own electricity from renewable sources. Following the briefing, the Minister and Mayor then visited a waste to power conversion plant in Springfield (pictured above).

TOYOTA REAFFIRMS LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN ETHEKWINI AND KWAZULU-NATAL

TOYOTA South Africa Motors (TSAM) has reaffirmed its commitment to long-term investment in Durban and the broader KwaZulu-Natal region.

This was the central theme of a high-level engagement between eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and TSAM President and CEO Andrew Kirby, aimed at strengthening collaboration on strategic infrastructure and economic development.

The meeting on 8 August focused on critical enablers for industrial growth, including road upgrades, stable electricity supply, and improvements to water and sanitation infrastructure in the Prospecton Precinct, home to TSAMs manufacturing operations.

Mayor Xaba was joined by eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele, Economic Development Committee Chairperson Councillor Thembo Ntuli, Trading Services Chairperson Councillor Mduduzi Nkosi, and EXCO member Councillor Andre Beetge.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and Toyota South Africa Motors (TSAM) President and CEO Andrew Kirby reaffirmed their partnership for Durban's industrial future, as TSAM committed to long-term investment while the City will continue to accelerate infrastructure upgrades in the Prospecton Precinct.

To support industrial activity in Prospecton, the Municipality is investing over R450 million in road infrastructure projects currently at various stages of implementation.

A major water infrastructure upgrade is also underway, involving the replacement of a 375mm asbestos cement pipeline with a new 400mm steel pipeline, a move expected to significantly improve water supply in the area. In response to flood damage, over R120 million has been allocated to repair and upgrade sewer networks and pumpstations.

The City has also invested in refurbishing power substations that service TSAM and surrounding industries.

Mayor Xaba described TSAM as one of eThekwini's most significant investors, with a partnership spanning more than five decades.

He said the City's dedicated support team, led by the City Manager, will continue working closely with TSAM to resolve infrastructure challenges.

TSAM President and CEO Andrew Kirby echoed the company's long-standing commitment and said they they will continue to be part of the solution to grow the City's economy.

PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT FOR 54 YOUTH GRADUATES

FIFTY-FOUR young people are now permanently employed after taking part in the Work Readiness Programme (WRP). This is a collaborative initiative between the City, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, and the Global Business Services sector.

The City, together with stakeholders, celebrated the graduation of participants recently.

All the graduates have secured permanent positions at Amalfi, a local Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) contact centre.

The WRP equips unemployed youth with vital skills for the BPO sector, preparing them for participation in the formal economy.

Among the 54 graduates honoured at the ceremony was Nqobile Ngcobo, a qualified accountant. After struggling to find work in her field, Ngcobo embraced the opportunity offered by the WRP. She joined Amalfi in April as a sales consultant on a Canadian campaign.

Her hard work paid off as she was promoted to Quality Analyst. Another inspiring story is that of Angelene Johnson, who holds a degree in psychology. She started the programme in April as a sales consultant and has since risen to the role of Team Leader.

Proud graduates of the Amalfi BPO at a graduation ceremony held at the Gateway Hotel, uMhlanga, recently. The programme recruits unemployed graduates and trains them to work in the Business Process Outsourcing call centre.

DURBAN ENTREPRENEURS TO SHINE AT GLOBAL SUMMIT

TEN Durban businesses have been afforded the opportunity of a lifetime to showcase their products at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Ghana.

This emerged during the Global Entrepreneurship Festival Durban Activation Summit, held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 6 August.

A major highlight of the day was the announcement that 10 local businesses will showcase their products at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Ghana, taking place from 21 to 23 November 2025. The business trip is fully sponsored by eThekwini Municipality and the provincial Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

The Durban activation- which was hailed a resounding success, united innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers from across the continent and beyond- formed part of the official build-up to the Ghana event.

Ten Durban-based entrepreneurs excitedly took to the stage in celebration after being announced as the selected businesses that will travel to Ghana to represent KwaZulu-Natal at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit.

The activation was held in partnership with eThekwini Municipality, the provincial Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal, and the KwaZulu-Natal Convention Bureau.

The festival featured thought-provoking panel discussions, business engagements, and exhibitions from 15 local businesses.

The 10 selected businesses are: Mangala Kreactions, Amazizi Leather Works, Seedtime Harvest Agriculture, Spectrum Closet, Vukari Art, Green Everything Recycling, Samices Boutique Craft, Maggie Africa (Pty) Ltd, Uthando Glow Skin, and The Basket Studio.

EXCITEMENT AHEAD OF RESURGENCE CONFERENCE

THE much-anticipated reSURGEnce Conference Durban 2025 was among 15 exhibitors at the Global Entrepreneurship Festival Durban Activation Summit on 6 August at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC), where it successfully facilitated onsite registration and outlined this year's event.

The reSURGEnce activation exhibition stand quickly attracted strong interest from delegates, becoming a hub of engagement as visitors sought more information about the upcoming conference.

Hosted in partnership with the United States of America (USA), the festival draws participation from the USA and various other parts of the world, creating a dynamic platform for trade and collaboration, discussions as well as knowledge exchange.

This year's edition of reSURGEnce takes place from 20 to 24 September at the Durban ICC and builds on the momentum of last year's event.

The reSURGEnce activation exhibition stand attracted strong interest from delegates at the Global Entrepreneurship Festival Durban Activation Summit.

SUPPORT FOR FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER SECTOR

THE City's Economic Development Directorate reiterated its support for industry development at the South African Footwear and Leather Export Council's (SAFLEC) Annual General Meeting in uMhlanga.

Through the eThekwini Footwear and Leather Cluster (EFLC), the City supports local manufacturers in areas including exports, market access, world-class production, product design, and sustainability.

EFLC also launched its Retail New Market Project, enabling five local manufacturers to supply national retail chains, a major step in enhancing visibility and growth.

Valued at R54.9 billion, South Africa's footwear and leather sector remains vital to the Durban and KwaZulu-Natal economy.

Despite strong manufacturing capabilities, 73% of footwear sold locally is imported, with local players facing challenging competition, especially from China, as well as global demand declines and trade disruptions.

Nelisiwe Magubane, Economic Development Directorate Programme Manager said: "The City remains committed to supporting growth and creating jobs."

Footwear remains a key export focus, with increased efforts needed to expand international reach and recapture lost market share.

In a show of appreciation for the City's continued support, SAFLEC presented Magubane with an award.

SHARKS TAKES RUGBY HOME GAME TO CLERMONT

IN an exciting move to bring rugby closer to the community, the Sharks, in partnership with Durban Tourism, hosted the Currie Cup pool match against the Cheetahs at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium in Clermont on 9 August.

This initiative aimed to deepen fan engagement and promote the love of rugby in communities. It was also a fantastic opportunity for Clermont and surrounding communities to experience rugby first hand.

The thrilling game, which took place in a vibrant community setting, was part of the Sharks' broader initiative to promote themselves and strengthen ties with their supporters.

The Sharks played the Cheetahs at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium in Clermont. The game is part of an initiative to strengthen ties with supporters.

Fans were given a rare chance to enjoy the live energetic Currie Cup match free of charge.

"It was more than just a game, but a celebration of the incredible spirit and passion for rugby within local communities. This match served as a bridge between professional sport and the township audience, reinforcing rugby's accessibility and Durban's position as a progressive, people-centred city," said Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli.

The Cheetahs, a team from the Free State, emerged victorious by a 7-5 score in the heated game.

The Sharks' two other Currie Cup home fixtures will be hosted at the Hollywoodbets Kings Park Stadium, maintaining their tradition of showcasing top-tier rugby at their iconic Durban home.

Playing at community venues underscores the Sharks' commitment to expand their reach beyond traditional venues, bringing rugby to new audiences and fostering a sense of unity and pride across the region.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

IN a powerful step toward inclusive climate action, eThekwini Municipality, in collaboration with the Durban Coalition, hosted a community-led Disaster Management and Climate Change Learning Exchange at the Durban Botanic Gardens. This initiative brought together civil society, academia, government, and international partners to strengthen grassroots disaster preparedness and climate resilience, especially in informal settlements.

The workshop highlighted the need for community-driven responses to climate-induced disasters. Keynote speaker Professor Francois Engelbrecht presented scientific evidence linking the devastating April 2022 floods-which claimed 544 lives and cost over R64 billion-to climate change.

His insight underscored Durban's vulnerability and the necessity of localised risk modelling and early warning systems.

Panel discussions focused on building community emergency response teams, enhancing heat resilience, and aligning City and civil society efforts.

Bongumusa Zondo, the City's Chief Strategy Officer, emphasised the importance of integrating resilience into urban governance, land use planning, and building regulations.

CLOTHING AND TEXTURE CONNECT SESSION

WITH the aim of strengthening collaboration and engagement across the clothing and textile value chain, the KwaZulu-Natal Clothing and Textile Cluster (KZNCTC), in collaboration with the City's Economic Development Directorate, invites industry stakeholders to its next Cluster Connect session.

The event will be held on 21 August at 2pm at TWIMS, 74 Everton Road, Kloof.

Developed in response to member feedback, the in-person session offers a valuable platform for open dialogue, shared learning, and sector-wide networking.

Attendees can look forward to a thought-provoking keynote address by an esteemed guest speaker, along with a focused discussion on a topical industry issue.

The session will explore current challenges, opportunities for innovation, and pathways to drive collective impact.

Whether you're looking to forge new connections, gain strategic insights, or contribute to shaping the future of KwaZulu-Natal's clothing and textile industry, the Cluster Connect is the ideal space to engage.

Don't miss this opportunity to collaborate, learn, and lead together. To book your seat, use this link to register: KZNCTC Cluster Connect Session

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

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