ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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INTERNATIONAL YACHTING EVENT TO ELEVATE DURBAN'S ECONOMY AND GLOBAL PROFILE

The City is preparing to host the first-ever African edition of the prestigious Yachting Aftersales and Refit Experience (YARE) On Tour event. The proposal to host the event is under consideration by Council.

DURBAN is set to make an indelible mark on the global stage as it prepares to host the first-ever African edition of the prestigious Yachting Aftersales and Refit Experience (YARE) On Tour event. This milestone further cements eThekwini's reputation as a premier destination for investment and international events.

Following a comprehensive five-day site inspection and feasibility assessment, a high-level delegation from Italy-based Navigo International, custodians of the YARE programme, endorsed Durban as a strong contender to host the event in November 2026.

The proposed hosting of this high-profile event is currently under consideration by Council.

Their visit marks a significant step forward in Durban's drive to position itself within the global blue economy and supports national priorities like Operation Phakisa.

YARE is a globally recognised annual business conference for the superyacht industry, bringing together shipyards, service providers, and over 100 superyacht captains, alongside more than 300 top-tier global companies.

The event offers a powerful networking platform and drives innovation and collaboration across the maritime sector.

From 11 to 15 July, eThekwini Municipality hosted the Navigo delegation, who assessed Durban's marine infrastructure, port facilities, and shipyard capabilities.

The visit also included strategic engagements with City officials and stakeholders to explore the development of a Durban-focused Superyacht Master Plan.

This initiative aligns with the City's broader Inner-City Regeneration Programme, particularly the Durban Bay Waterfront and Marina Development.

EThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele hailed the visit as a major success, stating: "This event will provide a high-impact platform to showcase Durban as a global investment destination. It will elevate our profile in the luxury tourism and marine innovation sectors, and attract international events to our shores."

Mbhele noted that Navigo has expressed strong interest in long-term partnerships with South Africa, with Durban envisioned as a central hub.

Hosting YARE On Tour aligns with Durban's strategic vision to become a world-class superyacht destination, supported by the transformation of the Durban Bay Waterfront and Marina.

The initiative also supports national ocean economy strategies and the City's regeneration goals.

The event is expected to deliver wide-ranging benefits, including increased foreign direct investment, tourism growth, and job creation across sectors such as maritime, hospitality, creative industries, and services.

Pietro Angelini, General Manager of Navigo, shared his optimism saying: "We have found a very promising location for yachting development here in Durban. The City has immense potential to become a key hub, with opportunities for training and other collaborative ventures."

Mbhele confirmed that the City will continue working with Navigo to finalise the Superyacht Master Plan, which will outline infrastructure, policy, investment, and innovation priorities.

CITY STRENGTHENS CREATIVE INDUSTRY THROUGH STRATEGIC MOU SIGNINGS

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli and Director of the Economic Development Directorate Shunnon Tulsiram presided over the signing ceremony of several MOUs with stakeholders in order to strengthen the City's film industry.

THE Economic Development Directorate, through the Durban Film Office Division, has signed three-year-long memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with stakeholders to strengthen Durban's film and television sector.

The three MOUs were signed on 18 July with the Film and Publications Board (FPB), the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), and the KwaMashu Community Advancement Projects (KCAP).

These strategic partnerships will enhance skills development, promote regulatory compliance, and create economic opportunities for emerging creatives.

The MOUs signify a shared commitment to sustainable industry growth, leveraging collective expertise to uplift communities and foster transformation.

The initiative aligns with the Municipality's vision of building an inclusive, vibrant, and economically active creative industry.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli highlighted the importance of the agreement saying these MOUs are more than symbolic, they are living frameworks.

"Through coordinated action, we will strengthen compliance, intellectual property education, enhance training, and ensure that our storytellers are equipped to compete on national and global stages," said Councillor Ntuli.

Guided by the District Development Model, this initiative aligns with the City's integrated approach to planning and service delivery.

It seeks to unlock opportunities for sustainable development through intergovernmental cooperation.

The MOU with CIPC focuses on education and outreach around intellectual property rights, while the FPB partnership promotes regulatory compliance and content classification.

The KCAP agreement will enhance community engagement through initiatives such as film screenings, audience development scriptwriting labs, and the KwaZulu-Natal African Film Festival.

"These partnerships reflect our resolve to grow Durban's creative economy while creating a safe, inclusive and enabling environment," said Shunnon Tulsiram, Director of the Economic Development Directorate.

"Together, we are shaping a future where the film sector contributes meaningfully to economic transformation."

SPECIAL COUNCIL ADOPTS CLEANSING AND SOLID WASTE TURNAROUND STRATEGY

THE Cleansing and Solid Waste Turnaround Strategy was adopted on 21 July during a Special Council meeting held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre.

The Turnaround Strategy has been developed in alignment with National Treasury's Metro Trading Services Reform Framework.

The Waste Management Directorate will change from a traditional unit to a Cleansing and Solid Waste Business Directorate with a single point of accountability.

A single point of accountability will enable the Executive Director of the Waste Management Directorate to have the necessary responsibility and authority to improve its services and to be held accountable in this regard.

As per the requirements by National Treasury, the strategy document is coupled with the Cleansing and Solid Waste Directorate's Institutional and Governance Roadmap (A1) and the Business and Investments Plan (A2), also forming part of the Metro Trading Services Reform to improve all aspects of the solid waste business.

According to the report, the institutional reforms focus on improved management and governance, while the Business and Investment Plan focuses on the Waste Business Development Plan.

The Directorate is also required to develop a Performance Improvement Action Plan (A3) which is due in April 2026.

The report states that this will be submitted in due course, as it is a pre-requisite for the Urban Settlements Development Grant, an incentive grant that will be provided during the 2026/27 financial year.

This is the third strategy that Council has approved following the Water and Sanitation, and Energy Management strategies as part of National Treasury's Trading Reforms to improve the performance of trading services.

The Reform of Metro Trading Services Programme supports reinventing trading services in metropolitan municipalities through performance based financial incentives to reward good decisions and performance.

Metros, including eThekwini Municipality, had to first develop a turnaround strategy outlining plans to address structural and investment gaps affecting trading services.

UPDATE ON THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE MOSES MABHIDA STADIUM

THE refurbishment project at the Moses Mabhida Stadium is progressing well.

Aimed at preserving its world-class status and enhancing its functionality for local and international events, this initiative-which commenced last year- is part of the City's commitment to maintaining key infrastructure while prioritising safety, accessibility, and an improved visitor experience.

The upgrades to the iconic stadium, which has been in operation for 15 years, have been strategically phased to minimise disruptions to scheduled activities and public access.

Progress is being made on the emergency rehabilitation of the concrete and roof structure, focusing on major identified structural defects.

This includes the rehabilitation of steel, concrete, and roof structures—addressing issues such as compromised mechanical joints, steel corrosion treatment, and the arch structure.

As part of the initial phase of the project, significant maintenance issues were addressed including the replacement of the damaged roof membrane, applying steel corrosion coatings to exposed areas, replacing the arch cladding, removing corroded sky car infrastructure, and improving drainage systems for easier maintenance.

The renovation will also see the introduction of the following new features to ensure the stadium remains a premier tourist destination:

- New Viewing Platform with 60 percent increase in floor area featuring a cantilevered glass floor for an "Air Walk" experience
- New Sky Car with increased travel time which will be accessible to people with disabilities
- New Big Swing with improved access to launch platform
- New Zip Line which ends at the People's Park
- Compression Ring Walk which provides panoramic views with a sea-facing bungee jump option.

APPLY NOW TO SHOWCASE AT ANNUAL DURBAN FASHION FAIR

Register by 31 July 2025 to be among the fashion designers showcasing at the Durban Fashion Fair.

ETHEKWINI Municipality invites designers from across South Africa to apply for the opportunity to showcase their designs at the 14th annual Durban Fashion Fair (DFF).

The DFF will take place from 17 to 19 September at The Station Urban Event Space.

Applications are now open and close on 31 July 2025.

The showcase is part of the City's broader commitment to developing the creative industry and empowering entrepreneurs in the fashion sector.

Apply online via: https://forms.gle/BU1QnL3QCxNmCPp38

Over the past decade, the DFF has grown into a vital platform, showcasing fashion and shaping careers.

Many past participants have gained access to buyers, business partnerships, and international opportunities.

Makhosi Ntshangase of Sista Fellas, a 2019 DFF mentee and Rising Star winner, credits the showcase for successfully launching her career.

"DFF was my key to unlocking doors of opportunity. I learned the business of fashion, networked, and eventually signed a consignment deal with Edgars. I encourage both emerging and established designers to seize this opportunity as it can elevate your brand."

Zama Gumede, founder of Zavior Fashion House, said the DFF has been part of her journey for 10 years.

"In 2020, I showcased a collection and was discovered by Icon Clothing who attended the DFF. They are located in Polokwane's Mall of the North. They have been one of my biggest clients since."

Another success story is Mxolisi Mkhize, founder of House of St Luke.

He said: "After being scouted at the show, I was approached to be the wardrobe and costume designer for the Gospel Crown Awards and commissioned to create 80 looks for Miss and Mr Durban University of Technology 2024."

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli reaffirmed the City's investment in the programme by growing the fashion sector and creating opportunities.

OVERSIGHT VISIT TO USHAKA MARINE WORLD AND DURBAN ICC

OFFICIALS from the Economic Development Directorate together with members of the Economic Development and Planning Committee conducted an oversight visit to two of Durban's key Municipal entities, namely uShaka Marine World and the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC).

This visit aimed to provide councillors with a better understanding of how these institutions operate, examine their infrastructure, and evaluate their contributions to the City's social and economic development. It was also an opportunity to identify areas needing support and to foster stronger alignment between Municipal oversight and operational delivery.

The visit was led by Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli and Director of the Economic Development Directorate Shunnon Tulsiram.

Officials from the Economic Development Directorate as well as members of the Economic Development and Planning Committee conducted an oversight visit to two Municipal entities namely uShaka Marine World and the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre recently.

UShaka Marine World is one of the largest marine theme parks in Africa and a major tourist destination situated along Durban's Golden Mile. It features the uShaka Sea World Aquarium, home to an extensive variety of marine life, along with dolphins and seal shows. The theme park also offers the Wet 'n Wild water park, which includes exhilarating water slides and pools suitable for all ages, while the vibrant Village Walk is where visitors enjoy dining, shopping, and entertainment.

Following the tour of uShaka, councillors visited the Durban ICC, an internationally acclaimed venue for conferences, exhibitions, and cultural events. The centre includes world-class meeting spaces, the expansive ICC Arena suitable for large-scale events such as concerts and sporting events, and a stylish Business Lounge catering to VIPs and corporate delegates. The Durban ICC also houses the Durban Exhibition Centre designed for expos and trade showcases. The venue integrates South African heritage into its architectural design. The oversight visit forms part of the City's strategy to ensure accountability, improve institutional performance, and uphold standards in public service.

KZN SHINES AT SIMON MABHUNU SABELA AWARDS

THE KwaZulu-Natal Film Industry hosted the 12th annual Simon Mabhunu Sabela KZN Film and Television Awards at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre. The awards ceremony honoured excellence in film and television while profiling KwaZulu-Natal as a leading destination for film production. Among the notable nominees was Durban-based filmmaker and Durban Film Office beneficiary Lisa-Marie Pyanee, who received two nominations for her short film "Cotton Dreams" in the categories of Best Short Film and Best Production Design.

In May, Pyanee was awarded a R250 000 Development Grant by the Durban Film Office. Additionally, through support from KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film, she received R120 000 for development and R1.2 million towards production under the Made-for-TV Programme.

Other award winners included Burnt Onion Productions, who received the Best Use of KZN as a Film Location Award for "Disaster Holiday", and Wilson Mzelemu, who won Best Student Film for "Mbali". Mark Angels received the Best Screenplay Award for his film "Masinga: The Calling".

Pictured is Durban-based filmmaker and Durban Film Office beneficiary Lisa-Marie Pyanee who received two nominations for her short film "Cotton Dreams" in the categories of Best Short Film and Best Production Design at the Simon Mabhunu Sabela Awards.

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

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