ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

5 August 2025 [Issue 425]

EXHIBITOR APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR RESURGENCE CONFERENCE

THE exhibitor registration is now open for the reSURGEnce Conference Durban 2025, taking place from 20 to 24 September at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC).

Themed "A Thicker Slice of the Economic Pie", this year's conference builds on the phenomenal success of its 2024 debut and promises a bigger, bolder platform for inclusive economic empowerment.

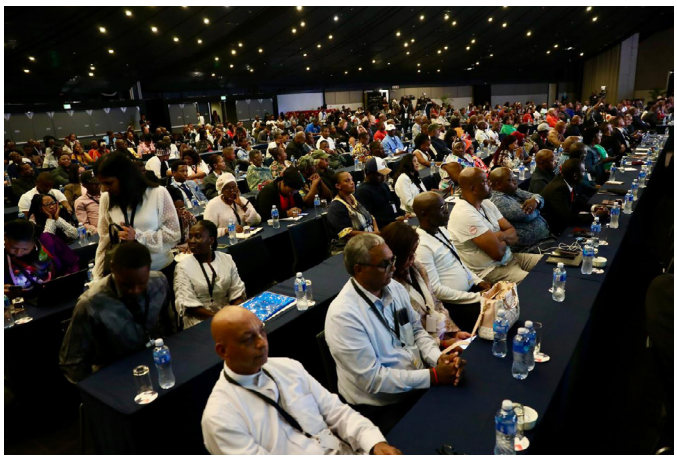
Apply before the deadline of Friday, 29 August 2025.

Businesses, innovators, corporates, and entrepreneurs with market-ready products are encouraged to register to showcase their products and investment offerings to a high-level audience of global delegates, investors, and trade partners.

Sectors that are especially encouraged include furniture, footwear and leather, clothing and textiles, metals and allied products, chemicals and plastics, automotive products, machinery and equipment, arts and crafts, and many more.

Interested businesses can download the registration form at the following link: ***https://tinyurl.com/bdhtd7y7***

Alternatively, application forms are available from the Business Support offices at Embassy Building, 7th Floor, 199 Anton Lembede Street, or can be collected from the security desk. Forms can also be obtained by emailing zamani.shezi@durban.gov.za



Exhibitor registration for the reSURGEnce Conference Durban 2025 is now open. Register before 29 August 2025 to join businesses showcasing their innovations and products on 22 and 23 September at the Durban ICC. Don't miss this chance to gain exposure, network, and opportunities with delegates from around the world. Pictured above are businesses that exhibited at last year's conference.

The exhibition will run from 22 to 23 September, offering market access, visibility, and business development opportunities, as well as facilitating export opportunities.

The 2025 programme highlights a two-day conference running concurrently with the exhibition, which will feature high-level panels speaking on trade, investment, and entrepreneurship. A Pan-African Dialogue and Global Empowerment Forum will take place on 21 September, along with strategic networking, mentorship sessions, and investor engagement, to name a few.

In 2024, the reSURGEnce Conference contributed R203 million to the local Gross Domestic Product, with over R82 million in direct economic impact.

Key outcomes included international seed-funded projects, Southern African Development Community trade linkages, and continuous mentorship for local businesses mentored by esteemed United States-based companies.

This year, over 150 delegates from the United States, Africa, and local markets are expected to participate, deepening global economic partnerships and advancing regional development.

The reSURGEnce platform is a progressive initiative by eThekwini Municipality, in collaboration with the City of New York, that aims to reshape Africa's economic narrative.

For enquiries email Nondumiso.mthembu@durban.gov.za or Zamani.Shezi@durban.gov.za or call 031 311 4500.

For more information visit: *www.reSURGEnceConference.com* and follow @reSURGEnceConference across all social media platforms.

PLANS TO BOOST TOURISM IN DURBAN'S OUTER WEST

A Tourism Awareness Workshop was held on 30 July and served as a strategic platform for dialogue between eThekwini Municipality and tourism stakeholders in Durban's Outer West.

EFFORTS to revitalise tourism in Durban's Outer West region took a significant step forward as new routes and development strategies were unpacked during a strategic engagement between eThekwini Municipality and local tourism stakeholders.

The strategic Tourism Awareness Workshop showcased opportunities such as the proposed Religious Route, Eco Trails, and the Shongweni Route designed to reposition the Valley of 1000 Hills area as a must-visit destination.

It was hosted in collaboration by the Economic Development Directorate and Durban Tourism and formed part of an ongoing feasibility study commissioned by the Municipality to identify viable tourism opportunities in the region. The workshop served as a feedback platform and encouraged dialogue between the City, tourism businesses in the area, and the 1000 Hills Community Tourism Organisation (CTO), which plays a key role in regional promotion and is partly funded by Durban Tourism.

With approximately 20 local tourism product owners and CTO members in attendance, the session aimed to share insights from the study and explore new products that could attract visitors and drive inclusive economic growth.

Representatives from the Economic Development Directorate and Durban Tourism outlined the City's commitment to research-led opportunity identification, sustainable tourism development, and capacity building for local enterprises in a bid to ensure all areas thrive.

GO!DURBAN TO PROVIDE RELIABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEM

THE eThekwini Transport Authority (ETA) has unveiled a revised GO!Durban Strategy, aimed at fast-tracking the rollout of an affordable, safe, and reliable Integrated Public Transport Network that benefits all. This announcement was made during a recent Executive Committee meeting.

This move is part of the City's efforts to overcome key implementation challenges and ensure the final delivery of phase one of the programme.

This revised strategy realigns the programme with national frameworks, accelerates short-term delivery, and places greater emphasis on inclusive stakeholder participation and long-term sustainability. The programme has been realigned with national frameworks to ensure compliance and support from the National Department of Transport.

ETA Acting Director Nelisiwe Zama said the revised strategy marks a decisive move forward to deliver a public transport system that works for all.

The eThekwini Transport Authority has unveiled a revised GO!Durban Strategy which aims to fast track the rollout of an affordable, safe, and reliable Integrated Public Transport Network.

Water Tariff Modelling

THE eThekwini Water Services and eThekwini Sanitation Services Directorates participated in a two-day workshop on water tariff modelling. The workshop aimed to enhance understanding of how to design sustainable and equitable water and sanitation pricing structures.

Water and sanitation tariff modelling is essential to achieving a balance between cost recovery, affordability, equity, efficiency, and long-term sustainability.

The workshop covered key components of tariff model development, including cost structure analysis encompassing operating, capital, and administrative costs as well as future expansion and compliance costs.

In his opening address, Ednick Msweli, Director of the eThekwini Water Services Directorate, emphasised the critical importance of financial sustainability for these directorates as they implement a turnaround strategy.

"For us to invest in water infrastructure, we must first get our finances in order," Msweli stated. "If we fail to invest adequately, service delivery will deteriorate, and the entire system risks collapse," he added.

Participants explored demand forecasting by user categories and socio-economic classes, considering seasonal variations. Customer segmentation was emphasised, distinguishing between lifeline customers, average consumers, and high-volume users such as industries.

Various tariff design options were reviewed, including uniform rates, increasing block tariffs, and two-part tariffs combining fixed and usage-based charges.

FRENCH DELEGATION SIGNS MOU TO LAUNCH INCUBATOR FOR WOMEN

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Innovate Durban, Alliance Française, and the French Embassy. This agreement sets the stage for a new women-focused incubator in the cultural and creative industries sector. Scheduled to run from November 2025 to April 2026 at the Innovation Co-Lab in Cato Manor, the programme will also include a dedicated space for children, ensuring that women with families are not excluded.

The initiative is funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and supported by Region Réunion, a sister city to eThekwini.

This agreement formed part of discussions during a meeting between eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and French Ambassador David Martinon.

The engagement aimed to deepen bilateral relations between France and South Africa, with a strong focus on investment, innovation, and support for women entrepreneurs. Key discussions between the two parties revolved around expanding investment opportunities within eThekwini, while creating long-term partnerships that support inclusive growth. A significant highlight was France's ongoing commitment to empower women through initiatives that provide training, mentorship, and access to business networks.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed French Ambassador David Martinon, who was part of a French delegation that recently visited the City to dicusss relations between France and eThekwini.

Ambassador Martinon's visit also showcased existing collaborations, such as the project in Cato Manor where 13 women entrepreneurs are currently being empowered with skills and business development support, thanks to French funding.

"We look forward to exploring trilateral partnerships with France. These engagements are important in strengthening our relationship and building on the foundations established between our two countries," said Mayor Xaba.

EThekwini has an existing sister city relationship with Le Port, Reunion Island and there is ongoing exploration of formalising ties with the city of Nice, France.

Ambassador Martinon expressed his commitment to ongoing collaboration: "France values its partnership with eThekwini and is proud to support initiatives that uplift communities through innovation and entrepreneurship."

UKZN AND CITY WIN GLOBAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RESEARCH

THE University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and eThekwini Municipality have been honoured with the prestigious Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N) Partnership of the Year Award. This accolade is for their collaborative EPIC-Durban Project, which addresses pressing urban challenges through transdisciplinary research. The award, presented by the EPIC-N, recognises outstanding partnerships between universities and local governments.

EPIC-Durban, launched in 2017 under the Durban Research Action Partnership (DRAP), focuses on vulnerable communities such as Quarry Road West, the Pholani Informal Settlements, and the Mzinyathi peri-urban area where the project was piloted.

Led by Professor Catherine Sutherland and Nkosinathi Mncwabe from UKZN, with support from Dr Sean O'Donoghue and Smiso Bhengu of eThekwini Municiplaity's Climate Change Adaptation Branch, the project has delivered impactful solutions including safe walkways, food gardens, waste management systems, and disaster response plans in the informal area that is situated in a flood prone area.

"This initiative harnesses academic innovation and community knowledge to co-produce sustainable solutions," said Mncwabe. "Winning this award highlights the power of collaboration in tackling complex development issues."

Professor Sutherland added: "EPIC-Durban's people-centred approach builds trust and embodies the spirit of Ubuntu, working toward a more just and resilient future."

The EPIC Africa network now includes 12 active partnerships across the continent, with O'Donoghue co-chairing the initiative and leading training workshops to expand its reach.

O'Donoghue said: "The EPIC model emerged from the United States of America, and with the help of organisations such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations Global Adaptation Network, has developed an amazing community of practice in African partner cities which have adapted the model to their own regional challenges and contexts."

LIFEGUARD LEARNERSHIP PROGRAMME GETS GREEN LIGHT

Council has approved a Lifeguard Learnership Programme for the 2025/26 financial year.

THE City has approved the implementation of a 12-month Lifeguard Learnership Programme for the 2025/26 financial year during a recent Full Council meeting. This programme seeks to improve capacity at Municipal swimming facilities and create employment opportunities.

The Recreation and Parks Directorate has a complement of 120 permanent lifeguards, which are deployed in all regions within the City. These lifeguards provide a service to 23 beaches around the City.

However, among this cohort, some are no longer fit to perform lifeguard duties as they are required to be able to fulfil an aquatic mandate.

The Directorate resolved to realign seasonal lifeguard contracts to attract the capacity shortages during peak swimming season.

The 12-month learnership programme has an estimated budget of R1.2 million which will be funded by the Recreation and Parks Directorate.

A total of 30 learners will be recruited and paid a monthly stipend of R 1 650 at a total cost of R594 000 by the eThekwini Municipal Academy.

According to the report tabled at Full Council, the learnership will provide several benefits, including safety enhancement at Municipal swimming facilities and skills development.

GREEN CORRIDORS PROGRAMME MAKES IMPACT

ETHEKWINI Municipality, through its Economic Development Directorate, is proud to highlight the achievements of the Green Corridors Programme.

This initiative continues to transform Durban's natural and urban landscapes into vibrant, inclusive, and economically productive spaces. Between 2022 and 2025, the programme has made significant strides in environmental restoration, job creation, and economic transformation. A total of 90 hectares of invasive alien vegetation has been cleared, while 15 litter booms have been installed across key river systems. Six pocket parks have been established, contributing to greener, safer public spaces.

Innovative approaches to waste beneficiation saw the production of over 20 tonnes of compost and trials of fibre-plastic composites.

The programme has also played a pivotal role in promoting economic development.

Seventy-four direct jobs were created including 27 youth internships along with 160 contract opportunities in green space management and recycling. Over 7 300 tourists visited community-based tourism sites, and more than 40 small, medium, and micro enterprises have been supported.

Financially, the programme has been supported by a blend of Municipal funding and external partners, securing over R44 million in investment between 2022 and 2025.

Simo Mabaso and Jabulani Khanyile mix food and organic waste treated with activated effective micro-organisms for bokashi compost making. This is one of the achievements of the Green Corridors programme.

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

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