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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GLOBAL CHEMICAL GIANT BASF EXPANDS DURBAN FACILITY

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba on 4 March inaugurated BASF's expanded high-tech dispersions facility in Durban, celebrating 60 years of operations and boosting capacity for regional architectural, construction, and paper industries. The site, which includes a new application laboratory, strengthens BASF's supply chain and underscores its commitment to the African market.

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed another major investment in the south of Durban following the expansion of the Badische Anilin- und Soda-Fabrik (BASF) factory.

Mayor Xaba welcomed the company's investment, noting that it will create additional job opportunities for local communities.

He said the multimillion rand investment is a clear indication that eThekwini is on an upward trajectory and that business confidence in the City continues to grow.

The Mayor also reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to working closely with the business sector to ensure reliable and uninterrupted Municipal services that support investment and economic growth.

Global chemical company BASF officially inaugurated its expanded dispersions production facility in Durban on 4 March, marking an important milestone as the company celebrates 60 years of operations in South Africa.

The expansion significantly increases production capacity and strengthens BASF's ability to supply high-quality dispersions used in the architectural coatings, construction, and paper industries across East, West, and Southern Africa.

This investment is aimed at supporting the growth of regional customers by improving supply reliability and enabling faster responses to market demand.

As the only multinational-owned dispersions production plant in South Africa, the Durban facility remains a critical hub in BASF's global Europe, Middle East and Africa network. To support the increased production capacity, BASF has established a modern on-site application laboratory. The facility will serve as a centre for technical excellence, enabling closer collaboration with customers and providing enhanced support for the development of locally relevant product formulations.

Mayor Xaba highlighted the broader economic benefits of the investment.

"This expansion represents a significant boost to the local economy. It supports business growth, strengthens the manufacturing sector, and contributes to job creation. Investments of this nature also have a ripple effect across the value chain, as companies that supply raw materials and services benefit from the growth of industrial activity."

Jörg Niebergall, Senior Vice President for Dispersions Europe at BASF, said the investment reflects the company's long-term commitment to the region.

"Our investment in Durban demonstrates BASF's continued commitment to the dynamic African market.

This investment strengthens our position as a leading supplier and enhances our ability to support customer innovation."

The upgrade includes advanced production technology, including the installation of a new reactor that will improve efficiency, and increase capacity.

HAMMARSDALE WASTE BENEFICIATION CENTRE DRIVES TRANSFORMATION

Economic Development and Planning Committee Chairperson Councillor Thembo Ntuli and committee members conducted an oversight visit to the Hammarsdale Waste Beneficiation Centre on 5 March. The centre supports waste-to-economy initiatives, SMME incubation, and green jobs creation.

THE Hammarsdale Waste Beneficiation Centre continues to play a critical role in transforming waste into economic opportunity, supporting green jobs, enterprise development, and sustainable innovation in eThekwini.

Members of the City's Economic Development and Planning (ECOD) Committee conducted an oversight visit to the facility to assess the impact of the Municipality's circular economy initiatives on 5 March.

The visit was led by the Chairperson of the ECOD Committee, Councillor Thembo Ntuli.

The Committee assessed the progress and impact of the Municipality's circular economy initiatives, which aim to transform waste streams into economic opportunities while promoting enterprise development, skills transfer, and the creation of green jobs.

The Hammarsdale Waste Beneficiation Centre forms part of eThekwini Municipality's Waste Circular Programme, developed in partnership with USE-IT.

The facility operates as a green innovation hub, supporting waste diversion from landfills, small, medium and micro-sized enterprise (SMMEs) incubation, alternative building technologies, and climate-aligned local economic development.

During the guided tour, key initiatives were showcased, including waste aggregation buy-back operations, enterprise incubation support for SMMEs, responsible e-waste dismantling for value recovery, and compliant battery recycling processes.

The oversight visit also included a viewing of alternative building technology demonstration structures, highlighting performance testing, skills development, and technical oversight.

Councillor Ntuli said the work taking place in Hammarsdale represents a significant shift in the Municipality's approach to economic development.

"This centre demonstrates how waste can be transformed from an environmental challenge into an economic opportunity by supporting entrepreneurship and creating green jobs. This initiative aligns directly with our Municipal priorities of promoting sustainable growth, infrastructure innovation, and community upliftment," he said.

Managing Director of USE-IT Belinda Putterill said the programme's focus is not only on job creation but on developing sustainable employers.

Since the programme's inception nine years ago, the Municipality and USE-IT have facilitated more than 2 600 job opportunities in the waste beneficiation sector for residents of eThekwini.

The Hammarsdale Waste Beneficiation Centre continues to play a critical role in transforming waste into economic opportunity, supporting green jobs, enterprise development, and sustainable innovation in eThekwini.

YOUTH TO GAIN SKILLS THROUGH LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ETHEKWINI Municipality is taking bold steps to equip local youth with practical, life-changing skills.

Recently, about 100 unemployed young people from Ntuzuma and surrounding areas enrolled in a three-month vocational training programme through the eThekwini Municipal Academy.

The training spans plumbing, electricity, bricklaying, and tiling, linked to current ongoing construction projects including Ntuzuma Mall, Nozaza Node Hub, housing developments, and other community upgrades.

Participant Nokwanda Mazibuko described the programme as "life-changing."

"This programme is giving me a real skill, a real future, and a chance to uplift my family and my community."

EThekwini Municipality is working with developers and retail owners to absorb trained youth into projects once complete, ensuring that skills development translates into lasting opportunities.

One hundred young people have enrolled in a three-month vocational training programme where they will be equipped with practical skills to find employment.

CITY'S VAST TOURISM OFFERINGS HIGHLIGHTED AT GERMAN TRADE SHOW

Durban Tourism proudly showcased the City on the global stage at the ITB Berlin which is one of the world's leading tourism exhibitions. It was held under the inspiring theme: 'Discover the Stories Behind 60 Years of Legacy'.

DURBAN Tourism proudly flew the South African flag high at the recently held ITB Berlin which took place from 3 to 5 March in Berlin, Germany.

The global travel trade show is one of the world's leading tourism exhibitions, bringing together thousands of industry leaders, travel buyers, and representatives.

As a leading travel trade show, ITB Berlin focuses on networking, sustainability, and Artificial Intelligence in tourism.

The major event features over 5 800 exhibitors from over 170 countries.

Representing the City, Durban Tourism used the platform to market Durban's diverse tourism offerings, strengthen international partnerships, and attract more visitors to the coastal destination.

Durban is positioning itself as a must-visit destination known for its warm Indian Ocean waters, golden beaches, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant lifestyle. The City continues to build on its reputation as a gateway to unforgettable experiences, from world-class events and heritage sites to culinary diversity and adventure tourism.

Through its presence at ITB Berlin, Durban Tourism engaged with global travel operators, airlines, and tourism stakeholders to promote investment opportunities and expand travel packages that feature Durban as a key destination in Southern Africa.

The international exposure comes at a time when Durban's tourism sector continues to gain recognition. Participating in global tourism platforms such as ITB Berlin is critical for positioning Durban competitively in the international tourism market.

USHAKA MARINE WORLD POSITIONS ITSELF AS A TOP LEISURE DESTINATION

USHAKA Marine World amplified its role as a tourism catalyst when it hosted a Concierge and Tour Operators' Information Session on 6 March. The session brought together hotels, travel operators, and regional tourism bodies, highlighting the importance of collaboration in shaping visitor experiences and showcasinh Durban's growing portfolio of tourism offerings.

Durban's tourism sector is demonstrating robust growth, fueled by strong visitor numbers, renewed investor confidence, and deliberate collaboration among key industry stakeholders. The City's resurgence comes at a pivotal time for South Africa, as KwaZulu-Natal continues to anchor the country's tourism recovery and expansion.

The session opened with a welcome address from uShaka Marine World Chief Executive Officer Ndabo Khoza, who highlighted the importance of collaboration within the tourism value chain and the role that concierges and tour operators play in shaping visitors' experiences in the City.

Guests also heard presentations from several tourism partners, including Onomo Hotel, Durban Fever Travels, uMhlanga Tourism, and KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film, who shared insights into regional tourism offerings and opportunities to further promote Durban as a leading destination.

The programme concluded with an interactive walkabout of uShaka Marine World, allowing guests to experience the attractions first-hand, followed by a networking lunch at the Cargo Hold Restaurant.

"This engagement forms part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships with the tourism trade and ensure that those who interact directly with visitors are well-informed about the experiences available at uShaka Marine World," said Khoza.

Naomi Crous from uMhlanga Tourism; Onke Mtshali, uShaka Marine World Programme Director; Thokozani Mngomezulu from Durban Fever Travels; Nokuthula Luthuli, uShaka Marine World Sales Manager, and Sue Venter representing the Onomo Hotel at the Concierge and Tour Operators' Information Session hosted by uShaka Marine World on 6 March.

ETHEKWINI AND PRASA STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE RAIL RELIABILITY

ETHEKWINI Municipality is engaging with the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) to strengthen intergovernmental collaboration to address challenges affecting the railway environment. This includes illegal dumping, encroachment within the rail reserve, vandalism of infrastructure, and infrastructure maintenance concerns. Reliable rail services and efficient commuter movement are critical to the Municipality as rail remains a key component of the City's broader public transport system. It also supports economic activity, improves access to employment opportunities, and reduces congestion on the road network. As part of this collaborative effort, the parties are in the process of formalising a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide areas of cooperation and coordinated planning.

The City has entered a partnership agreement with the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa to address several challenges including illegal dumping along the railways.

PRASA Regional Manager, Thami Sithole, said: "This partnership reinforces collaboration within government to seek solutions to shared challenges so that we can progressively improve the efficiency of the transport network for commuters. The partnership will support coordinated planning of infrastructure development and improved alignment in service delivery. Joint planning strengthens the execution of various programmes."

The partnership will focus on a number of strategic initiatives, including collaboration around the IPTN Corridor C2 Route (uMlazi–Durban–KwaMashu) Business Plan, a review of the City's Integrated Public Transport Network, and the development of a Public Transport Demand Model. It will also seek to improve alignment between rail infrastructure planning and catalytic development projects, with participation from relevant national and provincial departments where required.

Illegal dumping within the rail reserve remains a significant challenge, particularly along sections between the Durban and Berea stations. In addition, the encroachment of informal settlements into the rail reserve continues to present safety risks to both residents and rail operations.

'DIGITALLY YOU' JOB PORTAL TO TRANSFORM E-RECRUITMENT IN ETHEKWINI

THE City is moving closer to unveiling its new e-recruitment platform, Digitally You as it reaffirms its commitment to delivering a smarter, faster, and more reliable digital recruitment experience. The platform is designed to modernise how applicants access employment opportunities. Digitising Human Resources processes is a key performance imperative. By replacing outdated, paper-heavy systems with Digitally You-a secure, mobile-friendly gateway-the Municipality will speed up turnaround times, strengthen transparency, and provide every applicant with a fair and seamless path into municipal service.

To make way for this upgrade, the Municipality paused the old recruitment system late last year. Although the Digitally You portal was initially scheduled to go live in February, technical teams are currently finalising refinements and conducting stability checks.

Director of Human Resources Sihle Mkhize expressed appreciation for the public's interest in the new platform. He assured the public that recruitment has continued throughout the transition and that all applications are being processed through interim channels.

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

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