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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TOYOTA'S R10.4 BN INVESTMENT WELCOMED

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba has welcomed Toyota South Africa Motors' R10.4 billion investment in the production of the new ninth-generation Toyota Hilux, unveiled on 16 July.

Mayor Xaba described the investment as a significant vote of confidence in eThekwini and a clear indication that Durban remains an attractive destination for investment.

He said the investment reflects growing confidence in the City's improving business environment and its ongoing commitment to economic growth and job creation.

The unveiling ceremony was addressed virtually by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who congratulated Toyota South Africa Motors on reaching this important milestone and reaffirmed government's commitment to supporting South Africa's automotive manufacturing sector.

Durban continues to strengthen its position as a leading investment destination. EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed Toyota South Africa Motors' R10.4 billion investment in the production of the new ninth-generation Toyota Hilux, describing it as a significant vote of confidence in the City's economy and future.

Mayor Xaba pledged that the Municipality would continue working closely with Toyota South Africa Motors to strengthen and expand Durban's automotive industry.

"We welcome this investment as a strong endorsement of Durban's economic potential. It reflects the progress we have made in creating a stable and enabling environment for investment, supported by continued improvements in service delivery. We remain committed to partnering with industry to drive economic growth and create sustainable employment opportunities for residents," said Mayor Xaba.

Toyota South Africa Motors President and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Kirby, commended eThekwini Municipality for its continued efforts to maintain and upgrade critical infrastructure, including water, sanitation, electricity, and road networks, noting that these improvements are essential to sustaining a competitive investment environment.

The R10.4 billion investment further strengthens Durban's position as a leading automotive manufacturing hub and underscores the City's growing appeal as a destination for local and international investment.

DURBAN PREPARES TO HOST THE 46TH SADC SUMMIT

DURBAN is set to take centre stage on the regional diplomatic calendar as it hosts the 46th Ordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 16 and 17 August. The high-profile gathering will bring together the leaders of SADC's 16 member states, alongside senior government officials, policymakers, business leaders, and development stakeholders from across Southern Africa. The summit will focus on advancing regional economic transformation and strengthening collaboration among member states.

As SADC's highest decision-making body, the summit plays a pivotal role in defining the organisation's strategic direction, setting priorities for regional co-operation, economic integration, peace, security, and sustainable development. The outcomes of the meeting are expected to influence policy and development initiatives across Southern Africa in the coming years. The event will also mark the formal handover of the SADC Chairship to South Africa for 12 months, reinforcing the country's leadership role in driving the regional agenda.

Ahead of the summit, Durban will host a series of preparatory engagements, including meetings of the SADC Council of Ministers, a Presidential Lecture by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and the annual SADC Industrialisation Week commencing from 27 July.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba assured delegates that Durban is prepared to host the upcoming summit and provide a safe, world-class experience. "The Municipality, working closely with national and provincial government and law enforcement agencies, has significantly heightened security measures in and around the summit venue, key transport routes, and accommodation facilities to ensure the safety of delegates." Mayor Xaba said the summit will showcase Durban's proven capability as a premier destination for hosting major international events.

46TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialisation through Infrastructure Development, Agricultural and Critical Minerals Transformation in Pursuit of a Just World

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ASIMILE SIYAQHUBA: PROVIDING RELIABLE SANITATION IN THE CITY

THE Water and Sanitation Services Directorate has implemented several initiatives to ensure a reliable sanitation service is provided. The City continues to prioritise reliable and efficient service delivery through the successful refurbishment and upgrading of key wastewater infrastructure.

Highlighting the gains made in this regard is the City's Five-Year Service Delivery Milestones campaign, Asimile Siyaqhuba: Resilience Through Adversity. The campaign highlights service delivery gains made during the 2021 to 2026 term of office.

Some of the achievements made include:

REFURBISHMENT OF UMDLOTI WASTEWATER PUMPSTATIONS

Critical restoration works have been made at the uMdloti wastewater pumpstations. As part of the intervention, the pumpstation located at 1 Wick Street in Verulam was equipped with two newly installed pumps. The pumpstation at Starr Street in Verulam was also upgraded with the installation of two new pumps. Pipework refurbishment was completed at Pump 3, Hammond Farm in Verulam while the facilities were fitted with a new motor control centre, which enables automated operation and efficient control of pump start-and-stop functions.

PROGRESS AT NORTHERN WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS

The restoration of the Northern Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) is progressing well with noticeable improvement of treated effluent being discharged. The teams have stabilised operations with the plant achieving more than 80 percent in its effluent quality compliance. Other milestones include the revival of three out of four bioreactor lanes, repairs and upgrade of mechanical and electrical equipment at critical access points, restoring capacity in the maturation ponds and the refurbishment of the complete Head of Works. The work being undertaken is expected to be completed in 2027.

UMBILO AND KWANDENGEZI WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS

There is steady progress on the repair and refurbishment of the Umbilo and KwaNdengezi WWTW. Progress to date includes civil construction works within the plants such as the rehabilitation and construction of internal access roads at the Umbilo WWTW. The installation of stormwater pipelines to improve stormwater management at both plants, Umbilo and KwaNdengezi is making significant progress.

As part of civil work, the contractor has also reinforced embankments to prevent erosion and stabilise vulnerable sections of the site.

SEWER RETICULATION PROJECTS

As part of service delivery milestones, the Wastewater Design Division completed several sewer reticulation projects with an aim to improve quality of life and minimise pollution of the environment. Major projects include a sewer reticulation project at Msenga Road in Kloof which involved the installation of approximately 2 960 metres of 160mm diameter sewer reticulation within an established urban area.

HELEN JOSEPH SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Helen Joseph Sewer Replacement Project was implemented to address recurring sewer surcharges and infrastructure failures caused by ageing 150mm earthenware clay pipes.

The project involved the replacement of approximately 570 metres of deteriorated 150mm earthenware pipes with new 160mm heavy-duty uPVC or HDPE pipes between Helen Joseph Road in Glenwood and Cato Road in the Berea.

ML SULTAN ROAD SEWER UPGRADE

As part of its ongoing infrastructure improvement programme, the Municipality completed a significant sewer capacity upgrade in Greyville, successfully resolving persistent wastewater overflows in a high-use public precinct.

RK KHAN SEWER REALIGNMENT

The City's Wastewater Design Branch completed the realignment of critical sewer infrastructure serving the RK Khan Hospital and surrounding precinct.

The RK Khan Sewer Realignment Project delivered measurable performance improvements over the past three years. Sewer overflow incidents have been reduced from 17 recorded cases in the 2022/23 financial year to zero incidents in 2024/25.

ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY ADVANCES DATA-DRIVEN SERVICE DELIVERY

ETHEKWINI Municipality is accelerating its transformation into a smarter, more responsive and accountable City by positioning data as critical infrastructure that drives faster, more efficient, and targeted service delivery for residents. This was the key message emerging from the Municipality's recent data strategy empowerment workshop, which brought together Municipal employees, leadership, councillors, and key stakeholders to advance data-driven service delivery, smarter planning, and stronger accountability.

As municipalities across the globe embrace data-driven governance, eThekwini Municipality is ensuring that decision-making is informed by evidence, resources are directed where they are needed most, and performance is continuously monitored to deliver measurable outcomes for communities.

EThekwini Municipality is advancing data-driven service delivery by harnessing the power of data to improve planning, strengthen accountability, and enhance decision-making. To this end, a data strategy empowerment workshop was recently held in the City.

The workshop focused on key priorities, including data governance, ethics, cybersecurity, organisational readiness, skills development, data-sharing practices, and change management.

Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala said data has become one of the Municipality's most valuable strategic assets.

"The future of service delivery is data-driven. By treating data as critical Municipal infrastructure, we are equipping the Municipality to plan with greater precision and to respond more rapidly."

A highlight of the workshop was the Data Strategy in Action showcase, where officials demonstrated innovative dashboards, digital platforms, analytics tools and strategic intelligence solutions that are already enhancing planning, monitoring, and reporting.

TOURISM REVITALISATION EFFORTS PRAISED BY PEWG

CITY leadership has welcomed the positive outcomes of the Presidential eThekwini Working Group Tourism Revitalisation Workstream 4 meeting, which reaffirmed Durban's growing reputation as one of South Africa's leading tourism and business events destinations.

The meeting reflected on the significant progress made in implementing tourism revitalisation initiatives. Durban was recognised for successfully hosting major local and international events, particularly during the winter season, which continue to attract thousands of visitors and stimulate economic growth. The Workstream noted that Durban has maintained strong momentum in destination marketing, both domestically and internationally, ensuring that the City remains visible and competitive in key tourism markets. These sustained marketing efforts are contributing to increased visitor confidence while reinforcing the message that Durban is open for business.

The meeting further acknowledged the City's continued success in attracting Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions, a sector that remains a key driver of tourism growth. Safety and security interventions were highlighted as a key contributor to Durban's tourism success.

CITY READY TO HOST SA AUTO WEEK 2026

DURBAN is officially set to host the landmark 5th anniversary of SA Auto Week at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 13 to 16 October under the theme; 'Transforming Tomorrow Today: Resetting Policy, Advancing the Energy Transition, Driving Investment and Inclusive Growth'.

The Automotive Business Council officially announced that Africa's premier automotive platform will take place in the City. The event is delivered in strategic partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government and eThekwini Municipality.

Welcoming the announcement, eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba expressed pride that the continent's most influential automotive gathering was coming to Durban. He said the City is uniquely positioned to anchor an event of this magnitude due to its world-class port infrastructure, growing industrial capacity, and dynamic tourism offerings. The four-day summit will feature high-impact activities, including CEO Thought Leadership Roundtables, an NEV Road Trip, an African Auto Indaba, and automotive plant tours. By anchoring SA Auto Week 2026, eThekwini Municipality firmly re-establishes Durban as a leading global destination for trade, investment, and tourism.

ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS STRENGTHEN ROAD SAFETY

ETHEKWINI Municipality continues to prioritise road safety and freight compliance through proactive enforcement operations conducted along key transport corridors. During July, a series of joint freight enforcement operations were undertaken on the M7/N2 corridor and at the Mariannhill Toll Plaza, bringing together the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI), Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA), and the City's Metro Police, Fire Directorate, and eThekwini Transport Authority (ETA). Each participating agency played a specialised role during the operations.

The Fire Directorate inspected dangerous goods documentation to ensure compliance with relevant regulations, while RTI officials focused on traffic law enforcement and provided motorists with opportunities to settle outstanding traffic fines on site. RTIA officials educated drivers on the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences system and assisted them with checking infringement records. Metro Police and ETA officials provided enforcement support. Four enforcement operations were conducted on 7, 9, 14 and 15 July. Officers recorded six compulsory stop sign violations and identified 16 cases where drivers failed to produce the required dangerous goods certificates. A total of R92 500 in fines was issued, while 26 fines were settled on site, generating R15 800 in payments. Importantly, 272 vehicles were inspected and drivers were educated on safety and compliance requirements.

By combining education with enforcement, the Municipality is strengthening accountability in the freight sector and making the roads safer for everyone.

CFO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER APPOINTED

ETHEKWINI Municipality's Full Council has approved the appointments of Dr Sandile Mnguni as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Malusi Mhlongo as Executive Director: Office of the City Manager. The appointments were confirmed during an in-committee meeting of the Full Council held on 15 July.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba congratulated both appointees on their appointments. "I have no doubt that, with the extensive experience they have gained within the Municipality, they will hit the ground running," said Mayor Xaba.

Malusi Mhlongo

Dr Sandile Mnguni

The Mayor commended Dr Mnguni for his exceptional leadership, describing him as one of the country's leading municipal CFOs. "As an accountant by profession, Dr Mnguni has done sterling work to stabilise the City's finances."

Commenting on Mhlongo's appointment, Mayor Xaba said his extensive legal and governance experience will strengthen accountability and institutional governance.

INVESTMENT BY UPL REINFORCES CONFIDENCE

THE investment by United Phosphorus Limited (UPL) of R707.9 million in environmental rehabilitation and R17 billion investment has reinforced confidence in eThekwini. Following the unrest and looting of July 2021, which severely impacted the UPL Cornubia facility, the company has made significant progress in restoring, rehabilitating and stabilising the affected environment while reaffirming its long-term commitment to eThekwini Municipality through further strategic investment.

UPL, a global agrochemical company, suffered extensive damage when its distribution warehouse caught fire during the July 2021 civil unrest, resulting in the release of chemicals. From eThekwini Municipality's perspective, UPL's response demonstrates responsible corporate stewardship and confidence in the City's future.

Through its substantial investment in environmental rehabilitation and its planned R17 billion biofuels project, UPL is contributing to environmental recovery, economic resilience and sustainable development in KwaZulu-Natal.

As at the end of March 2026, UPL had invested approximately R707.9 million in environmental rehabilitation, ecological restoration, infrastructure reinstatement, specialist scientific investigations, and ongoing environmental monitoring arising from the incident.

EThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele said the Municipality welcomed UPL's continued investment and commitment to the region.

MAYOR XABA VISITS MOTHER OF PEACE ORPHANAGE

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba commemorated Mandela Day at the Mother of Peace Orphanage in Illovu, south of Durban on 18 July.

The orphanage, which currently provides care for 58 children aged three to 21, is a registered non-profit organisation. It is a safe family environment for orphans and vulnerable and abused children.

Mayor Xaba dedicated his 67 minutes of service by handing over donated items, including non-perishable food, children's clothing, and gardening tools. These donations were generously contributed by Municipal staff, stakeholders, and external partners in support of the initiative.

During a walkabout at the orphanage, Mayor Xaba was impressed with a mushroom cultivation project, a poultry farm, and a vegetable garden being managed by the organisation.

The children from the Mother of Peace Orphanage in Illovu were all smiles when eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba handed over donations in commemoration of Mandela Day on 18 July.

Chairperson of Mother of Peace Orphanage Gavin Gradwell thanked the Municipality and its stakeholders for the support.

BAKERY PROGRAMME SUCCESS

A BAKERY that started with just two people in Zwelibomvu, in the Outer West of Durban, is now creating seven jobs and supplying bread across its community. This demonstrates how eThekwini Municipality's Community Container Bakeries Programme is helping to tackle unemployment while growing township and rural-based enterprises and co-operatives. Established in April 2019, the programme provides fully equipped container bakeries to qualifying co-operatives to stimulate local economic development, create sustainable jobs, and improve food security. Since its inception, the Municipality has invested approximately R28 million, delivering more than 30 bakery infrastructure projects. During the 2025/26 financial year, the Municipality completed six container bakeries in Newlands West, uMlazi D, Welbedacht, Magabheni, Hammarsdale, and Shongweni. Building on this momentum, a further three bakeries are planned for the 2026/27 financial year in KwaNyuswa, Dassenhoek, and Inanda. One of the programme's success stories is The Bread Army Bakery Co-operative, which started operations around March 2025. Khaya Nyawo of The Bread Army Bakery Co-operative said: "We started with just two people working from home and have grown to employ six people and a cleaner. Our growth is a direct result of the Municipality sponsoring us with the bakery and equipment we needed."

The Bread Army Bakery Co-operative in Zwelibomvu is one of the success stories of the Community Container Bakeries Programme.

DURBAN SCORES BIG WITH DOUBLE SPORTING WEEKEND

THOUSANDS of cyclists and rugby fans descended on Durban over the weekend as the City successfully hosted two major sporting events, further cementing its reputation as South Africa's premier destination for sports tourism.

The 40th edition of the iconic Amashova National Classic attracted thousands of cyclists from across the country and beyond. Participants took on the route from Pietermaritzburg to Durban, with the newly developed Westown Square serving as the official start venue for the popular 40km race.

Adding to the excitement, Durban also hosted the international rugby test match between the Springboks and Wales at the Hollywoodbets Kings Park Stadium on Saturday, 18 July. The highly anticipated fixture drew thousands of passionate supporters, creating a vibrant atmosphere throughout the City.

The successful staging of both events in one weekend once again showcased Durban's ability to host world-class sporting events while delivering significant economic and tourism benefits.

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

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