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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SERVICE DELIVERY STRENGTHENED WITH R43M WASTE MANAGEMENT FLEET

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and Chairperson of the Trading Services Committee, Councillor Mdu Nkosi, unveiled the Municipality's new R43 million waste management fleet which will enhance service delivery.

ETHEKWINI Municipality's service delivery has been enhanced with the recent unveiling of a new R43 million fleet of operational vehicles for the Waste Management Directorate.

The fleet was officially launched by eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, alongside the Chairperson of the Trading Services Committee Councillor Mdu Nkosi. The unveiling underscores the City's commitment to improving Municipal services and investing in reliable infrastructure.

The 18 newly acquired vehicles comprise of refuse compactors, industrial refuse compactors, service wagons, street sweepers, bakkies, and box trucks. They are being deployed across the Municipality to improve refuse collection, enhance street sweeping operations, support fleet maintenance, reduce downtime caused by ageing equipment, and respond more efficiently to service delivery requests. The commissioning of the fleet marks one of the first major milestones of the Waste Management Directorate's Metro Trading Services Reform Improvement Plan, which seeks to transform the directorate into a modern, financially sustainable, and operationally efficient Municipal utility.

Speaking at the launch, Mayor Xaba said the investment demonstrates the City's commitment to delivering reliable waste management services and improving the quality of life of residents.

"The acquisition of these transportation assets demonstrates the City's commitment to improving service delivery and ensuring our communities receive reliable waste management services. A well-equipped fleet enables our teams to respond more effectively, maintain cleaner public spaces, and contribute to a healthier environment for all," he said.

Mayor Xaba added that investing in modern operational resources is essential to meeting the growing demands of a rapidly expanding City. "These vehicles will improve operational efficiency, reduce service disruptions caused by ageing equipment, and support our commitment to delivering quality services to every community. This investment is ultimately about improving the quality of life of residents and building a City we can all be proud of."

SADC GAINS MOMENTUM IN DURBAN

THE Southern African Development Community's (SADC) buildup to the 46th annual summit is continuing, with multiple events taking place in the City this week.

Currently, the SADC Council of Ministers are in discussions while on Friday, 14 August, President Cyril Ramaphosa will deliver a public lecture, forming an important part of the programme. It is an opportunity for people from different sectors of society to participate in discussions about the regional integration agenda and strengthen public ownership of SADC's Vision 2050, while emphasising the need to translate long-term aspiration into concrete programmes, investments and measurable outcomes that deliver visible benefits to citizens and communities.

The President will also host and chair the 46th SADC Summit on 17 August, under the theme, 'Resilient, sustainable and inclusive industrialisation through infrastructure development, agricultural and critical minerals transformation in pursuit of a just world,' emphasising the development of infrastructure, agriculture, and critical minerals to advance industrialisation.

The summit will deliberate on a wide range of issues aimed at accelerating regional integration and development.

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DRIVING INNER CITY REGENERATION

DURBAN'S inner city is steadily reclaiming its status as a vibrant economic, cultural, and tourism hub, with eThekwini Municipality's Inner City Regeneration Programme delivering tangible results across key areas of urban renewal.

Highlighting the Durban inner city's revival gains is eThekwini Municipality's Five-Year Service Delivery Milestones campaign: Asimile Siyaqhuba: Resilience Through Adversity. The campaign highlights the gains made in terms of service delivery during the 2021 to 2026 term of office.

Over the past few years, the Inner City Regeneration Programme has focused on addressing some of the City's most pressing urban challenges, from problem buildings and public safety to infrastructure upgrades and investment attraction. Through strong partnerships between government, business, property owners, and community stakeholders, significant progress has been made in restoring confidence in the Durban Central Business District (CBD), creating a more attractive environment for residents, investors, and visitors.

One of the most visible achievements has been the successful intervention in problem buildings across the city centre. Over the past three years, approximately six derelict buildings have been demolished, while 16 buildings have undergone renovation and structural improvements. In addition, seven hijacked properties have been restored to their rightful owners through a rigorous legal process, and 13 buildings have been refurbished by their owners. These interventions have not only improved the City's appearance but have also enhanced safety and encouraged private sector investment.

The Municipality has complemented enforcement efforts with incentives designed to encourage property owners to maintain and upgrade their buildings. Faster development approvals, reduced application fees, and access to Urban Development Zone incentives have helped stimulate investment and support the regeneration of the CBD.

Safety and cleanliness have also become key pillars of the City's renewal strategy. The partnership with Ensure Ubuntu saw dedicated teams of street ambassadors, security personnel, and urban management teams deployed to the inner city. The increased visibility throughout the CBD has contributed to a reported reduction in serious crime and improved response times.

Extensive cleaning and maintenance programmes have transformed public spaces. Daily cleaning operations, illegal dumping removals, and waste management initiatives are helping restore civic pride and improve the overall experience of those who work, live, and visit the city centre.

Infrastructure investment has further accelerated the City's transformation. During the 2025/26 financial year, the Municipality invested nearly R128 million in the rehabilitation of 13 strategic roads, upgrading about 65 lane kilometres of road infrastructure. Key transport routes, including Dr Pixley kaSeme Street, Umgeni Road, and Margaret Mncadi Avenue, have all been improved, enhancing mobility, safety, and connectivity across the City.

Another standout achievement is the revitalisation of the Rivertown Precinct. The R3.8 million public realm upgrade has transformed a once-overlooked area into an emerging cultural and investment destination. New public art installations, landscaped spaces, and improved pedestrian infrastructure are laying the foundation for future mixed-use developments that will support tourism, creative industries, and small businesses.

Looking ahead, several catalytic projects are planned for the inner city, including the proposed marina development, Film City precinct, and Centrum redevelopment. These projects are expected to attract substantial investment and further strengthen Durban's position as a competitive destination for business and tourism.

While work continues, the achievements already realised demonstrate that Durban's inner city regeneration is no longer merely a vision. It is a transformation, increasingly visible in safer streets, improved infrastructure, renewed buildings, and growing investor confidence.

R29 MILLION MANSEL ROAD MARKET UPGRADE SUPPORTS TRADERS

PHASE one of the R29 million Mansel Road Market Development Project was launched by City officials amid much jubilation. The first phase of the project saw 100 new stalls with lockable doors as well as electricity and ablution facilities handed over to Church Walk traders.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli welcomed the project and the impact it will have on informal trading.

"The informal economy is an important pillar of economic activity in eThekwini, supporting thousands of households and creating opportunities for entrepreneurship across the City. Through the Mansel Road Market Development, we are building on the Municipality's ongoing support for traders by providing improved infrastructure that enhances safety, dignity and business operations. This investment is about creating sustainable opportunities and ensuring that informal traders continue to play a central role in Durban's economic growth and development," said Councillor Ntuli.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli cut the ribbon to officially reopen the revamped Mansel Road Market. He was accompanied by Municipal leadership and other stakeholders for the momentous occassion.

Trader Mboneni Qwabe has traded at the site since the market's early years, recalling how they initially sold goods from the boots of their cars.

"Later we moved into containers; however, the containers rusted because we are close to the sea. They became unsafe for both traders and customers. Receiving a proper stall with electricity and a lockable door means so much to us. It gives us security, dignity, and a better place to work. We can now focus on growing our businesses and providing better service to our customers," said Qwabe.

Executive Director for Economic Development and Planning Lihle Phewa said phase two of the project will see an additional 86 stalls built.

"Once completed, the upgraded development will accommodate 186 traders, creating further opportunities for informal businesses operating within the City. In addition to improving trading conditions, the project has also generated 55 temporary employment opportunities for residents and created work for four local subcontractors, ensuring that the investment delivers direct benefits to surrounding communities," said Phewa.

The Municipality also handed over 53 trading permits following the informal vacant stalls advertisement.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS INTENSIFIED

THE Metro Police continues to execute multi-disciplinary operations to enforce statutory regulations, maintain public order, and enhance community safety. Law enforcement personnel were recently deployed to key Municipal nodes to inspect public transport vehicles, curb illicit activities, and maintain high-visibility road safety enforcement.

These targeted operations yielded significant operational successes across the City. In the Durban Central Business District (CBD), the Metro Police Tactical Support Division executed an intelligence-driven operation on Dr Pixley Ka Seme Street, which led to the arrest of an undocumented foreign national and the seizure of 33 packets of suspected crystal meth.

To enforce road safety and regulatory compliance, officers conducted five targeted roadblocks and 22 vehicle stop-and-search operations across key transport routes. These interventions resulted in 84 arrests, primarily for drinking while driving and the issuance of multiple administrative fines to non-compliant motorists.

The Municipality also advanced regulatory compliance and urban management initiatives in commercial and public spaces. In Hammarsdale, the Metro Police collaborated with the Department of Employment and Labour on a joint inspection, resulting in the immediate closure of a non-compliant manufacturing facility and the arrest of two individuals for alleged fraud and immigration violations.

Concurrently, the By-Law Special Operations Team cleared environmental hazards and addressed unauthorised land occupation along the M4, N3, College Lane, and Monty Naicker Street, while female officers led Operation Basadi along the R102 in observance of Women's Month.

The Metro Police remains committed to its mandate to enforce the rule of law, protect Municipal infrastructure, and ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

ETHEKWINI JOINS UNITED NATIONS DRIVE TO RAISE YOUTH CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

ETHEKWINI Municipality has strengthened its response to climate change through a landmark partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), positioning Durban at the forefront of climate resilience and sustainable development. The partnership was formalised through a memorandum of understanding signed by eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and UNITAR Director Alex Mejia. The agreement will equip young people, communities, and Municipal officials with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle environmental challenges, strengthen climate resilience, and advance sustainable development.

Central to the partnership is UNITAR's Green Helmets Project, a global environmental education and leadership programme that seeks to develop a new generation of environmental champions committed to protecting ecosystems, restoring nature, and driving climate action.

The initiative will empower youth to become ambassadors of change, leading community-based environmental solutions while contributing to the global movement to safeguard the planet for future generations.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba and United Nations Institute for Training and Research Director Alex Mejia recently signed a memorandum of understanding to advance climate resilience, environmental protection, and youth-led sustainability initiatives.

Mayor Xaba said the partnership demonstrates the City's commitment to placing young people at the centre of climate action. "Climate change remains one of the greatest challenges of our time, and the youth will play a crucial role in shaping the future. This partnership equips them with the knowledge, skills, and leadership capabilities needed to become environmental champions," he said.

Mejia described the partnership as a significant milestone in advancing global development goals through local action. "Together, we are empowering communities, strengthening climate resilience, advancing environmental stewardship, and contributing meaningfully to the Sustainable Development Goals," he said.

The partnership marks the beginning of UNITAR's engagement in eThekwini and opens opportunities for collaboration with local institutions, community organisations, and other stakeholders committed to sustainability. The collaboration underscores eThekwini's growing commitment to environmental leadership, youth empowerment, and building a future-ready City.

UN LEADER APPLAUDS ETHEKWINI'S DRIVE TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ETHEKWINI Municipality's efforts to transform communities through sustainable development and innovative service delivery received international recognition during a visit by United Nations Institute for Training and Research Director Alex Mejia to assess the City's progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Hosted by the Municipal Institute of Learning, the two-day engagement brought together Municipal leaders, universities, government departments, and development partners.

The programme showcased how eThekwini is turning the SDGs into action. From the Soup Kitchen Project to innovative water and sanitation programmes and the Banana City Project, the City's initiatives are improving lives and driving sustainable development.

Mejia praised the City's commitment to sustainable development and collaborative action.

"What stands out in eThekwini is how global development goals are being translated into practical programmes that improve people's lives. We have seen inspiring examples of innovation, partnership, and community-centred development. The lessons and best practices shared here will enrich our global network and help inform future capacity-building initiatives in other cities pursuing the SDGs."

Director of the eThekwini Municipal Academy, Professor Mpilo Ngubane, said the visit reaffirmed the value of international co-operation in driving organisational excellence and improved service delivery. "The engagement enabled the City to showcase its achievements, learn from global best practice, and strengthen skills to deliver sustainable services."

United Nations Institute for Training and Research Director Alex Mejia witnessed first-hand how eThekwini Municipality is leveraging innovation, partnerships, and service delivery excellence to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and improve communities.

STRENGTHENING DISASTER READINESS FOR A MORE RESILIENT ETHEKWINI

Resilience is becoming one of eThekwini's strongest defences against the growing threat of climate change.

At the centre of this effort is the ongoing implementation of the Level 2 Disaster Risk and Response Management Plan, a strategic framework designed to strengthen preparedness, improve emergency response, and enhance co-ordination among all role players during times of crisis.

More than a response mechanism, the plan promotes a culture of readiness. It recognises that resilience is built long before disaster strikes through planning, collaboration, and proactive action.

Director of the Disaster Management Directorate Vincent Ngubane said the implementation of the plan reflects the City's commitment to protecting residents and reducing disaster risks.

"We have witnessed first-hand the devastating impact disasters can have on families, communities, and livelihoods.

As climate-related disasters intensify, eThekwini Municipality is strengthening preparedness, co-ordination, and emergency response through its Level 2 Disaster Risk and Response Management Plan.

The implementation of this plan ensures that the City continues strengthening preparedness, deepening partnerships, and improving the ability to respond effectively when emergencies occur," he said.

"Our priority is to protect lives, reduce risks, and build safer, more resilient communities," he added.

The plan brings together Municipal departments, emergency responders, strategic partners, and stakeholders under a unified system. This enables faster decision-making, efficient deployment of resources, and a co-ordinated response when emergencies arise.

For communities most at risk from disasters, the continued implementation of the plan reinforces the Municipality's commitment to protecting lives, reducing vulnerability, and building resilience.

A key focus of the plan is disaster risk reduction through stronger communication systems, improved early warning mechanisms, stakeholder collaboration, and greater community awareness. These measures ensure critical information reaches residents quickly and that co-ordinated action can be taken when every second counts. As climate-related risks continue to evolve, eThekwini is taking decisive action to protect lives.

Customers reminded to utilise SmartRev

THE City's Revenue Management Directorate reminds all residential and business customers, to take advantage of SmartRev, a basket of digital innovations that aims to make life simple for communities.

1. USSD: Dial *134*031#
Customers can view their bill and submit meter readings. No smartphone or data is required. It is an instant, low-cost platform for customers to access services on the go.

2. WhatsApp platform: 064 761 7930
Customers can request their bill and submit meter readings. This platform is multi-lingual, boasts instant delivery with read-receipts, and is on a verified secure profile.

3. E-Services Portal: visit https://eservices.durban.gov.za/v2/
On the portal, customers can update account information, capture and submit meter readings, view and download their bill as well as pay their bill via Masterpass, QR Code, or direct debit. This is a one-stop, on-the-go, convenient platform.

4. Revenue Correspondence Portal: visit https://correspondence.durban.gov.za/
Customers can now apply for new water and electricity services at the touch of a button. They can also make refund applications via this portal. This saves customers from travelling to Revenue Customer Centres. The request will be attended to, with customers provided with a reference number. The City will communicate with the customer via email.

5. Mobile App: Download the eThekwini Municipality App
Customers can request and download their bill, make payment, log a query, and capture meter readings via the easy-to-use Municipal app.

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

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