ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

25 August 2026 [Issue 475]

NTUZUMA MALL CONSTRUCTION HITS MAJOR MILESTONES

A MAJOR urban transformation is currently unfolding in Ntuzuma, Ward 42, aimed at supporting economic inclusion and local job creation. The centrepieces of this initiative are the ongoing construction of the over R200 million Ntuzuma Mall and a parallel R32 million upgrade of the KwaNozaza ICT Hub.

These projects are serving as live training grounds to transition local youth from vocational learning into infrastructure employment opportunities.

The developments form part of the Municipality's broader efforts to stimulate local economic activity, improve access to quality retail and technology infrastructure, create employment opportunities, and equip communities with skills that can support sustainable livelihoods.

The Ntuzuma Mall development, which is progressing through various construction phases, is expected to strengthen Ntuzuma as a neighbourhood retail and economic centre. The development will introduce new anchor tenants, line shops, internal and external walkways, as well as supporting road, paving and landscaping infrastructure.

Among the major retail developments are new Shoprite and Boxer stores.

The project is also providing an opportunity for local skills development, with youth participants applying vocational skills in a live construction environment. These include plumbing, electrical installations, bricklaying, plastering and tiling, creating a direct link between training and practical employment opportunities.

The Ntuzuma Mall development is hitting key structural milestones, paving the way for localised job creation and robust economic growth. The development remains firmly on track to launch this vibrant neighbourhood hub anchored by top national retailers Shoprite and Boxer by March 2027.

In parallel, the R32 million KwaNozaza ICT Hub upgrade is progressing, with the facility being developed into a modern technology and innovation space that will contribute towards expanding access to digital opportunities within the community.

The Municipality views these investments as important catalysts for economic inclusion, spatial transformation and local development, particularly in township communities where access to economic opportunities remains a key priority.

The Ntuzuma Mall development was unlocked through the eThekwini Development Planning and Facilitation process as a neighbourhood centre and retail development. The project is aligned with the Municipality's strategic priority of economic growth and job creation, while contributing towards creating more efficient and inclusive spatial development.

Nkululeko Mkhize, Deputy Head: Programme Co-ordination, said: "The Ntuzuma Mall development, supported by the eThekwini Municipality, represents a significant 18 000-square-metre private sector project aimed at boosting the local economy and empowering local small and medium enterprises. Key highlights include the creation of hundreds of construction jobs for local youth and the integration of small businesses alongside major retailers upon its 2027 completion, fostering long-term sustainability through inclusive development."

The Municipality will continue working with relevant stakeholders to ensure that these developments contribute meaningfully to local economic participation, skills development, and improved services and facilities for the residents of Ntuzuma and surrounding communities.

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UNLEASHING ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL ACROSS TOWNSHIP AND RURAL NODES

THE Economic Infrastructure Renewal Revitalisation Division, which falls under the Economic Development Directorate, is transforming township and rural economies. From the groundbreaking of the KwaMashu Auto Hub, which is 47 percent completion, to the massive R200 million Ntuzuma Mall development, the division is building world-class infrastructure right where people live.

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

The Economic Infrastructure Renewal and Revitalisation Division is unleashing a wave of economic infrastructure renewal across township and rural nodes. From the buzzing automotive workshops of KwaMashu to the high-tech digital corridors of Ntuzuma, the City is actively turning township and rural areas into industrial hubs. This is a bold declaration that eThekwini is open for business, private investment is flowing, and township economies are moving forward with unstoppable momentum.

By placing sustainable economic infrastructure at the forefront of its agenda, the City is focusing heavily on the Inanda, Ntuzuma, and KwaMashu areas to attract multi-million-rand private investments, boost local business growth, and accelerate job creation. The division places infrastructure at the absolute centre of its agenda to transform township, rural, and secondary central business district economies.

In KwaMashu, public-private confidence has reached a new milestone. The newly launched KwaMashu Safe-Hub combines sport, education, and enterprise support to create viable economic pathways for youth. Building on this momentum, the landmark KwaMashu Auto Hub has officially reached 47 percent completion. This specialised hub will formalise local automotive micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), providing informal mechanics and technicians with compliant business spaces, professional development, and direct access to broader commercial markets.

Simultaneously, Ntuzuma is being repositioned as a premier digital and retail economic hub within the INK region. The upcoming Bridge City Business and Light Industrial Hive will soon offer local entrepreneurs affordable workspace, skills training, and essential support services to strengthen local value chains. Furthermore, the KwaNozaza ICT Hub is on track for completion by the end of 2026. This facility will bridge the digital divide by offering advanced training in coding, web development, and graphic design to empower women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

These digital milestones perfectly complement a massive wave of commercial investment in the area, headlined by the R200 million Ntuzuma Mall development, which is scheduled to open its doors in March 2027. To maximise the mall's community impact, the Municipality is planning an integrated Taxi and Traders Facility to seamlessly connect public commuter transport with dedicated, safe, and well-organised spaces for informal traders.

Virginia Airport serves as a vital hub for KwaZulu-Natal's aviation sector, providing private charters, aircraft maintenance, and accredited pilot training that drives local skills development. The airport actively supports economic growth and job creation by fostering MSMEs.

While managing aging infrastructure, the facility completed crucial upgrades during the 2025/26 financial year to guarantee safety, regulatory compliance, and uninterrupted service. Key accomplishments include maintaining a compliant terminal, a well-kept airside facility, and ongoing runway repairs. Key infrastructure and operational achievements at the airport include completion of airport-wide installation of closed-circuit television cameras, procurement and installation of a 70kVA backup generator, and replacement of bulk water infrastructure.

Through these catalytic projects, the City is transforming the economic landscape, transitioning informal operations into competitive, sustainable township enterprises.

RECLAIMING THE INNER CITY THROUGH CLEAN-UPS

ETHEKWINI Municipality is reclaiming Durban's inner-city public spaces through weekly, multi-disciplinary operations targeting illegal structures, illegal dumping, and the unlawful use of open spaces.

The most recent operation ran from 19 to 21 August at King Dinuzulu Park. A multi-disciplinary team removed illegal structures, cleared accumulated waste, completed extensive tree trimming to improve visibility, and fumigated the site. Following safety concerns raised by residents and businesses, the park has now been restored for public use.

This follows a similar operation which took place from 12 to 14 August at The Workshop, where teams tackled illegal dumping, flushed drains, trimmed trees, and swept surrounding streets. Together, these interventions reflect the City's commitment to sustained, weekly maintenance rather than once-off clean-ups.

Director of the Supply Side and Area Based Operations Directorate Linda Mbonambi noted that the operations address a recurring issue across the inner city.

Gains continue to be made in the City through weekly, multi-disciplinary operations targeting illegal structures, illegal dumping, and the unlawful use of open spaces.

"Open spaces that fall into disrepair get invaded, and the disruption that follows spills over onto surrounding businesses, in some cases to the point where those businesses cannot trade. Restoring these spaces is not only about cleanliness and safety, but also about protecting economic activity and rebuilding business confidence."

Mbonambi emphasised that the City will not allow public spaces to be misused to the detriment of the community saying: "We are committed to restoring these spaces to their proper use. This forms part of a broader goal of ensuring the inner city restores a culture of preservation and attracts investment."

The City remains committed to collaborating with precinct users and property owners to co-ordinate safety, cleanliness, and infrastructure maintenance to protect property values and prevent urban decay.

Operations will continue weekly, expanding to additional public spaces across the inner city to build a clean, safe, liveable, and workable environment.

ETHEKWINI ADVANCES PLANS FOR DEDICATED INNER-CITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

A SIGNIFICANT step has been taken towards revitalising Durban's inner city through a proposal to establish the eThekwini Inner-City Development Company (DevCo). This will be a dedicated Municipal-owned entity that will drive urban regeneration, investment attraction, and property development initiatives.

The proposal, presented to the Economic Development and Planning Committee (ECOD), follows several years of research, stakeholder consultation, and feasibility assessments aimed at identifying the most effective institutional mechanism to address challenges facing the inner city. These challenges include aging infrastructure, inconsistent service delivery, under-utilised Municipal assets and declining investor confidence.

The proposed company will operate as a specialised development agency responsible for co-ordinating regeneration projects, unlocking the value of Municipal property assets, facilitating investment and supporting improved urban management. Importantly, no core Municipal services will be transferred to the entity, with the Municipality retaining oversight and accountability.

According to the feasibility study, DevCo is expected to enhance the Municipality's ability to respond quickly to development opportunities, attract public and private investment, and implement catalytic projects that support economic growth and job creation. The company will be wholly owned by the Municipality at establishment, with governance structures aligned to national legislation and good corporate governance principles.

The committee endorsed the feasibility study and approved the recommendation that the City Manager proceed with the legal establishment of the company paving the way for a more focused and co-ordinated approach to inner city renewal and long-term economic sustainability.

The ECOD decision is subject to approval by the Executive Committee and Full Council.

PERMANENT RIGHT-TURN RESTRICTION INTRODUCED ON PINESIDE ROAD

A permanent no-right-turn restriction is now enforced on Pineside Road as part of plans to implement a GO!Durban route. This applies to vehicles turning into and out of Pineside Road. The public is urged to plan their routes accordingly.

MOTORISTS travelling through New Germany are advised that the permanent restriction on right turns into and out of Pineside Road is now officially in effect. The change follows the completion of GO!Durban construction works in the area and forms part of preparations for the launch of the GO!Durban Corridor 3 (C3) public transport service between Pinetown and KwaMashu.

The restriction has been implemented to improve road safety and ensure the efficient operation of the upcoming transport service. While the measure was communicated to residents and road users during the construction phase, it has now become a permanent traffic arrangement. According to the notice issued, right turns between Pineside Road and Qashana Khuzwayo Road are no longer permitted.

To accommodate the new traffic flow, alternative access routes have been identified for motorists. Drivers travelling from Clermont towards Pinetown should use the left-hand slip lane from Qashana Khuzwayo Road to enter Pineside Road. Meanwhile, those exiting Pineside Road are required to turn left onto either Qashana Khuzwayo Road or Escom Road before continuing their journey.

The changes are expected to enhance traffic management and reduce potential conflict points along the route, contributing to safer travel for all road users. Public transport initiatives such as GO!Durban aim to provide efficient and reliable mobility options while supporting economic growth and connectivity across the Municipality.

R7.4 MILLION INNOVATE DURBAN INVESTMENT WELCOMED

IN a bid to position Durban as a leading innovation hub in South Africa and strengthen its broader digital and knowledge economy, eThekwini Municipality is set to strengthen its innovation ecosystem through a R7.4 million investment in Innovate Durban. This is aimed at turning innovative ideas into viable businesses, creating opportunities and expanding participation in the digital and innovation economy.

The Economic Development and Planning Committee, during a meeting on 19 August, recommended a one-year memorandum of agreement with Innovate Durban be signed, supported by R7.4 million in funding for the 2026/27 financial year. The City will monitor implementation and report on the outcomes of the collaboration. The recommendation remains subject to approval by the Executive Committee and Full Council. The partnership will focus on practical support for innovators, particularly young people, women, township entrepreneurs, and early-stage businesses. Support will include access to innovation tools and platforms, skills development, youth innovation challenges, incubation and acceleration, mentorship, prototype development, market validation, intellectual property support, and early-stage funding. Innovate Durban has established innovation labs across KwaZulu-Natal. The proposed collaboration will also support the operation and expansion of innovation lab facilities, including the Innovation Co-Lab at the Umkhumbane Entrepreneurial Support Centre in Cato Manor, as well as proposed satellite labs in townships and rural areas.

SMARTXCHANGE FINANCIAL BOOST TO DRIVE DIGITAL ECONOMY

ETHEKWINI Municipality is strengthening its digital economy with a recommended R4 million investment in SmartXchange, aimed at growing technology businesses, driving innovation, and creating jobs. The Economic Development and Planning Committee, during a meeting held on 19 August, recommended a new one-year memorandum of agreement with SmartXchange be signed, supported by approximately R4 million, for the 2026/27 financial year. The continued partnership will support information and communication technology incubation and entrepreneurship development through business incubation, innovation, market access, business development, and investment opportunities. SmartXchange has been supported by the City's Economic Development Directorate since 2004 and is identified as a priority intervention under Plan One of the Integrated Development Plan, contributing to eThekwini's vision of becoming a leading smart hub in Africa.

The programme has established a track record in developing technology entrepreneurs. Since its establishment, 273 sustainable micro, small, and medium enterprises have graduated from the incubation programme, creating 1 390 permanent jobs and 2 860 casual jobs. A further 13 former participants have progressed into employment within large organisations.

Since 2013, 25 companies have benefited from specialised workshops, funding, and exposure to trade exhibitions. The recommendations remain subject to approval by the Executive Committee and Full Council.

ETHEKWINI EMPOWERS YOUTH TO FIX INFRASTRUCTURE

AS eThekwini intensifies efforts to tackle unemployment and strengthen infrastructure, 63 unemployed young people have secured space in a groundbreaking plumbing apprenticeship programme.

This initiative, delivered through a partnership between the eThekwini Municipal Academy (EMA), iSisekelo Training Solutions, and key stakeholders, marks a significant investment in youth development and skills training.

It combines theoretical learning with practical workplace. The three-year Plumbing Apprenticeship Programme aims to develop a pipeline of skilled artisans, who can contribute meaningfully to service delivery while improving their own economic prospects.

The intake comprises of 63 unemployed youth, including 36 females and 27 males from the west, south, and central regions of eThekwini.

EMA Outreach and Capacity Building Division Co-ordinator Wendy Shabalala said partnerships remain critical in ensuring workforce development keeps pace with changing economic demands and service delivery needs.

During the three-year programme, participants will work closely with the Municipality's water and sanitation teams, gaining hands-on experience and technical expertise.

Participants described the opportunity as a major turning point, saying it represents a pathway to meaningful employment and economic independence.

Sixty-three unemployed young people have embarked on a three-year plumbing apprenticeship programme to tackle unemployment, strengthen infrastructure, and help build a better City.

CONSENSUS WITH CITY PLUMBERS REACHED

AFTER months of intensive engagements, eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba's intervention has helped resolve the impasse between the Municipality and former plumbers.

This follows a feedback meeting convened by the Mayor on 23 August and attended by Chairperson of the Trading Services Committee, Councillor Mdu Nkosi, Director of the Water and Sanitation Directorate Siyanda Mwelase, and representatives of the plumbers.

Among the issues raised by the plumbers were the rates payable to them and their recruitment by the main contractors from the existing database.

All parties agreed that the hourly rates for the three categories of plumbers will remain unchanged as follows:

- Category A: R592.51per hour
- Category B: R353.01per hour
- Category C: R238.60 per hour

The parties further agreed that the 15 percent management fee will no longer be deducted from the hourly rate of plumbers. Recruitment for the first shift of 712 plumbers has commenced, with 337 plumbers already recruited from the database. A further 375 plumbers are still required to complete the first shift.

Representatives of the plumbers committed themselves to assisting with the submission of names of plumbers to finalise the recruitment process for both the first and second shifts.

The previous contract with the plumbers was declared non-compliant with the Municipal Finance Management Act, as the contract had been designed before the legislation came into effect. To regularise the process, the Municipality was required to follow proper supply chain management procedures, including advertising a tender.

This process resulted in five companies being appointed as main contractors to provide plumbing services.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR KEY INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS

THE Economic Development and Planning Committee recommended continued support for two strategic industry clusters, namely the Durban Chemicals Cluster and the Durban Automotive Cluster, during a meeting on 19 August. The recommendation forms part of efforts to strengthen industrial competitiveness, localisation, enterprise development, and economic growth in the City.

The Committee recommended that the Municipality enter into a new memorandum of agreement with the Durban Chemicals Cluster, supported by R3.58 million in funding for the 2026/27 financial year. The programme contributes to the City's Sakh'iTheku Strategy, with a focus on localisation, enterprise development, skills development, innovation and competitiveness.

Over the past three years, the Chemicals Cluster has supported 40 black owned small and medium enterprises, helping them unlock R6.4 million in new opportunities and generate R19.2 million in collective cost savings. More than 550 operators and leaders have also received training, while 15 firm diagnostics and three localisation and green growth initiatives were completed. The Committee also recommended continued support for the Durban Automotive Cluster, which was established in 2002, through a new one-year memorandum of agreement and approximately R3.236 million funding for the 2026/27 financial year.

Over the past three years, initiatives implemented through the cluster have leveraged approximately R135 million in financial support. All recommendations proceed to the Executive Committee and Full Council for approval.

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

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