ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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01 September 2026 [Issue 476]

MAYOR XABA COMMENDS PROGRESS ON NEW R2.1 BN CORNUBIA INVESTMENT

THE significant progress being made towards the completion of the new Cornubia Business Park in the north of Durban, was commended by eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba during an oversight visit on 31 August. The first phase of the development is nearing completion.

Mayor Xaba was accompanied by Fundamentum CEO Carlos Correia, the developer, and the Municipality's senior management team, led by Chief Operations Officer Lindokuhle Mkhize. During the visit, the Mayor was briefed on the substantial progress made on the first phase of the development, which includes retail stores by world-renowned retailer Leroy Merlin. The R200 million investment is expected to be completed in December, with the stores scheduled to open to the public on 16 December this year. The next phases of the development will include the construction of the Emeris Campus, which will accommodate approximately 8 000 students and commercial properties.

Mayor Xaba commended Fundamentum for its continued commitment to investing in eThekwini. The company already has assets worth more than R8 billion in the Municipality, including Westown Square in Shongweni, Bridge City Mall in KwaMashu, and Midway Crossing Mall in Newlands West. "We are excited that the investment being driven by Fundamentum in the Cornubia Business Park is a strong demonstration of the private-sector's confidence in our City," said Mayor Xaba.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, Developer Carlos Correia, and the City's Chief Operations Officer Lindokuhle Mkhize were among the delegation that conducted an oversight visit to the Cornubia Business Park Development on 31 August.

The current and planned investments in the Cornubia precinct alone exceed R2.1 billion. To date, approximately 300 construction jobs have been created, with a further 100 permanent jobs expected upon completion of the first phase. With the commencement of the second phase next year, close to 2 000 sustainable jobs are expected to be created.

"These investments are significant not only because of their financial value, but because of what they represent for our economy. This is precisely the type of investment-led development we welcome."

He added that approximately R500 million has already been committed to infrastructure in the precinct and the Leroy

INSPECTION OF SOUTHERN AQUEDUCT LEAK REPAIRS

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba conducted a site inspection in Westville on 31 August to assess progress being made by the water and sanitation teams to repair a leak along the Southern Aqueduct that was detected last week. The incident has affected water supply to the central and southern regions of the City.

The Mayor also visited Chatsworth Reservoir 4, which supplies most parts of Chatsworth as well as some reservoirs in uMlazi, to assess first-hand the impact of the burst on reservoir levels. The affected reservoirs are supplied through a single pipeline.

"I am pleased to report that experts have been commissioned to repair the concrete pipeline from underneath," said Mayor Xaba.

The concrete pipeline runs parallel to the existing 1 200 mm-diameter steel pipeline. Once the R1.2 billion Southern Aqueduct Project, which involves the installation of a second 1 200 mm-diameter steel pipeline, has been completed, the existing concrete pipeline will be decommissioned. The project is expected to be completed by December this year bringing much-needed relief.

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FIVE YEARS OF PROTECTING LIVES AND BUILDING A SAFER ETHEKWINI

FROM the frontline of emergencies to the forefront of innovation, eThekwini's Fire Services Directorate has spent the past five years strengthening response capabilities, protecting communities and building a safer, more resilient City.

Highlighting the gains made by the directorate is the City's Five-Year Service Delivery Milestones campaign, Asimile Siyaqhuba: Resilience Through Adversity. It casts the spotlight on the service delivery gains made during the 2021 to 2026 term of office.

Over the past five years, the Fire Services Directorate responded to 55 701 incidents across the City, demonstrating unwavering courage and a relentless commitment to protecting lives, property, and communities.

From the city centre and industrial hubs to informal settlements and rural communities, the directorate has remained a trusted lifeline, responding swiftly when residents need help.

Through strategic investments in infrastructure, fleet modernisation, firefighter development and public safety programmes, Fire Services has strengthened its ability to serve a growing City while delivering exceptional frontline service.

Its impact is best reflected in its operational performance. Between 2020/21 and 2024/25, firefighters battled 42 208 fires and responded to a further 13 493 emergency incidents, including rescues, motor vehicle accidents, and other critical situations.

These figures represent thousands of lives protected, properties saved, and communities supported during times of crisis.

The directorate's commitment to excellence has consistently translated into results. In 2020/21, firefighters exceeded their structural firefighting attendance target, achieving 54 percent against a target of 45 percent, ensuring faster response times.

The directorate also continued to keep fire-related property losses within performance benchmarks, highlighting the effectiveness of its firefighting operations and emergency response capabilities.

Beyond responding to emergencies, the Fire Services Directorate has worked tirelessly to prevent them.

Over the five-year period, the directorate conducted fire safety inspections and compliance monitoring at commercial properties, hazardous industries, dangerous goods operations, and other high-risk facilities.

Through the implementation of fire safety by-laws and proactive risk management interventions, the directorate helped improve public safety while reducing the likelihood of devastating incidents. This includes the recent aquisition of a state-of-the-art R29 million Aerial Ladder Platform Fire Vehicle.

Community safety also remained a key priority. Firefighters took their mission beyond the fire station through awareness campaigns, public education programmes, and targeted fire prevention initiatives in high-risk communities. These interventions empowered residents with life-saving knowledge while strengthening preparedness and resilience across the Municipality.

Investment in people has been equally significant. By 2022/23, the directorate had grown to 505 operational firefighters, supported by a broader workforce of 733 personnel operating from 22 fire stations and a dedicated training centre.

The introduction of new firefighter recruits, ongoing training, specialised skills development and continuous capacity-building programmes ensured teams remained ready to respond to increasingly complex emergencies.

The period also saw major strides in infrastructure and fleet development. The completion of the Verulam Fire Station, upgrades to fire service facilities, and the ongoing development of a dedicated Fire Training Facility strengthened operational readiness and future capacity.

Fleet renewal initiatives, including the procurement of new fire trucks, specialised equipment and the expansion of emergency response resources, further enhanced service delivery across the City.

As eThekwini reflects on five years of progress, the Fire Services Directorate stands as a benchmark for service delivery excellence. Its legacy is measured not only by the 55 701 incidents attended, but by the communities it protects. and the countless lives it helps safeguard every day.

INTERIM STORMWATER UPGRADE TO PREVENT FLOODING AT DURBAN COUNTRY CLUB

ETHEKWINI Municipality is implementing an interim stormwater upgrade to alleviate flooding at the Durban Country Club (DCC), a landmark sporting facility renowned as one of the world's leading golf courses. Established in 1922, the club has earned international recognition for its world-class course and its role in hosting prestigious tournaments. However, persistent flooding has emerged as a significant challenge, affecting course conditions, damaging infrastructure, and disrupting sporting events.

Senior Engineer, Sean Petzer in the Coastal Stormwater and Catchment Management Division, said: "To address this challenge, the Municipality is implementing a stormwater upgrade. The project involves the installation of two new 1 200 mm diameter stormwater pipes, each approximately 45 metres long, to improve the drainage capacity of the attenuation facility. The new pipelines are being installed beneath Masabalala Yengwa Avenue and will discharge into an open channel within the Windsor Park Golf Course, which ultimately feeds into the Umgeni River."

The City is implementing a stormwater upgrade to prevent flooding at the Durban Country Club.

He added: "The flooding is primarily caused by the club's low-lying topography, substantial stormwater inflows from the Morningside catchment, and insufficient downstream drainage capacity. During periods of intense rainfall, the existing stormwater attenuation facility becomes overwhelmed, leading to inundation of the fairways and recovery periods that can extend for up to three weeks. These recurring incidents have elevated the issue from an operational concern to a strategic risk for the club's international reputation."

Overall, the R3.9 million upgrade will provide a practical solution to alleviate flooding, improve operational reliability, and support the long-term sustainability of one of Durban's most iconic sporting facilities and one of Africa's premier golfing destinations.

MAYOR XABA FAST-TRACKS ACTION TO ADDRESS SEWER BLOCKAGES AND SANITATION REPAIRS

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba has intervened to fast-track efforts to reduce sewer blockages and overflows across the City, commencing a series of weekly outreach visits to communities affected by sewer-related challenges.

On 24 August, Mayor Xaba spent the day in KwaMashu engaging with affected residents and councillors from Wards 40 and 46 to assess the sewer challenges first-hand and identify urgent interventions.

The City's Sanitation teams have been attending to sewer-related incidents in KwaMashu. However, the system continues to face pressure from growing demand, ageing and constrained infrastructure, limited capacity in certain areas, as well as the misuse of the sewer network through the disposal of foreign objects.

During the outreach, the Mayor visited several affected locations, where sewer blockages were attended to and cleared on site by the sanitation teams.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba recently spent a day in KwaMashu engaging with affected residents and councillors from Wards 40 and 46 to assess the sewer challenges first-hand and identify urgent interventions.

"We have a new water and sanitation fleet that I recently unveiled, and our teams will be able to visit affected areas and clear these blockages. We need to act urgently to ensure that these challenges are addressed," he said.

Following consultations between the Mayor and the management of the Water and Sanitation Directorate, led by newly appointed Director Siyanda Mwelase, urgent measures have been identified to strengthen the City's response.

These include regular monitoring and maintenance of sewer infrastructure, faster response to reported blockages, and intensified community education on the proper use and protection of the sewer network.

The Mayor said the weekly outreach programme will be extended to other areas experiencing sewer blockages and overflows.

AMAZIZI LEATHERWORKS STITCHES SUCCESS FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL MARKETS

WHAT started as a solution to uncomfortable footwear during the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak in 2021 has grown into a leather business attracting customers beyond South Africa's borders. With eThekwini Municipality's support, Amazizi Leatherworks is turning craftsmanship into a growing enterprise.

Based in Dassenhoek, founder Jabu Dlamini established Amazizi Leatherworks after her career as a Chief Professional Nurse and Senior Research Technologist came to an end. Her experience working long hours in hospitals inspired her to explore leather as a breathable, durable, and sustainable alternative to synthetic footwear. The business has since expanded beyond shoes to handmade handbags, laptop bags, belts and other leather accessories, with quality and longevity at the heart of its offering.

Dlamini's entrepreneurial journey gained momentum through the City's Durban Textile and Leather Incubator (DTLI), where she received a year of mentorship in 2024, business development training, and access to specialised machinery. In 2024, she won a pitching session hosted by the DTLI and its partners, securing R25 000 in sponsorship from Standard Bank to purchase machinery and equipment. The business has since grown to employ three permanent employees and two temporary employees. In 2025, Amazizi Leatherworks received a R50 000 sustainability grant from eThekwini Municipality, which was used to install solar power and a JoJo tank, strengthening the businesses' operational resilience. The business has also benefited from pricing and costing, financial management, digital and social media training, leather processing, women empowerment programmes and Durban Business Fair exhibition opportunities. Municipal support, together with support from Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN), has also opened international doors. Amazizi was among 10 local businesses sponsored by eThekwini Municipality and TIKZN to participate in the Global Entrepreneurship Festival in Ghana in November 2025. Dlamini showcased her products, built business connections, and sold out her entire stock. The exposure continues to generate opportunities.

Amazizi Leatherworks founder Jabu Dlamini showcases her handcrafted leather products. The growing local business is taking Dassenhoek craftsmanship to markets beyond South Africa.

"I still receive orders from Ghana while similar interest has emerged from Zimbabwe. My plan now is to expand and scale up production so that I can become a permanent supplier to these markets."

Amazizi Leatherworks products are available on social media platforms under Amazizi

ETHEKWINI PUTS INFORMAL TRADERS AT CENTRE OF INNER-CITY REVIVAL

THE Future of Durban's informal economy took centre stage as eThekwini Municipality brought together informal traders, Municipal officials, and sector stakeholders to confront the challenges facing the sector and identify practical solutions for growth.

The Informal Economy Workshop, held at the Durban Exhibition Centre's Coast of Dreams on 26 August, provided a platform for discussions on the sector's development, progress made, and the support required to build a more inclusive and sustainable informal economy.

Chairperson of the eThekwini Municipality Informal Traders Forum, Councillor Busi Ndlovu, said meaningful engagement with traders was critical to finding workable solutions.

"The informal economy is an important component of the inner city economy. We need more innovation, consensus building and practical solutions, with less reliance on enforcement. Changes are required from all stakeholders, including the City," said Ndlovu.

Deputy Director of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Division, which oversees informal economy support, Nonku Mthembu, said the workshop was aimed at gaining a clearer understanding of the realities facing informal traders. Discussions also focused on identifying systemic barriers to business growth, improving access to markets, procurement, finance, skills and technology, and clarifying the Municipality's role in licensing, trading spaces, infrastructure, enforcement and economic development.

Informal traders who attended the Informal Economy Workshop remained highly engaged throughout the session, taking notes, asking questions, and offering potential solutions aimed at advancing the sector.

The discussions also linked the informal economy to the City's vision for a revitalised inner city by 2040. The vision includes a target of a population of 450 000 and 250 000 jobs in the inner city. It also includes improved management of street trading, dedicated trade bazaars, upgraded markets, improved public spaces, safer trading environments, and stronger economic linkages.

The workshop forms part of preparations for the two-day Informal Economy Summit scheduled for October, which will bring stakeholders together to consolidate priorities and develop practical interventions.

DISCOVER DURBAN'S CREATIVE TALENT AT GALLERIA HERITAGE POP-UP MARKET

FROM handcrafted jewellery and leather goods to traditional attire and woven baskets, more than 25 local businesses will showcase South African creativity when the Galleria Heritage Pop up Market opens on 1 September, giving shoppers a month-long opportunity to discover, support, and buy locally made products.

Running until 30 September, the market is hosted at Galleria Mall's Ground Floor Walkway, from Woolworths to Dis-Chem, creating a direct link between local creatives and potential customers in a high traffic retail environment.

The market features jewellery, traditional attire, home décor, handmade gifts, leather products, beadwork, woven baskets, bags, footwear and other locally crafted products.

The platform builds on the success of last year's market, where 21 participating businesses generated R272 546 in sales, while also

Caption: Visit the Galleria Heritage Pop-up Market and discover a diverse range of unique, locally made products while supporting local entrepreneurs. The market takes place place at Galleria Mall, Ground Floor Walkway, from 1 to 30 September from 9am to 7pm daily.

securing new customers, orders and business connections.

Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee, Councillor Thembo Ntuli, said the initiative demonstrates the impact of creating practical market access for local businesses.

"Last year's market demonstrated what is possible when local businesses are given access to customers and appropriate trading platforms. This year, we are expanding that opportunity by bringing together more than 25 arts and craft businesses, giving them a space to trade, build their brands and connect directly with their market," said Councillor Ntuli.

He said the partnership with Galleria Mall demonstrates the value of government and private sector collaboration in advancing business development.

The participating businesses were selected from eThekwini Municipality's Arts and Craft Database, which currently includes approximately 200 businesses receiving ongoing business development support.

Businesses interested in joining the Arts and Craft Database can contact Nondumiso Mhlongo on 031 311 4578/00 or email nondumiso.mhlongo@durban.gov.za

The public is encouraged to visit Galleria Mall, shop local and support local entrepreneurs throughout September.

The market operates Monday to Saturday from 9am to 7pm and Sundays and public holidays from 9am to 5pm.

CITY'S RABIES PREVENTION RESPONSE INTENSIFIED

THE City's Primary Healthcare Services Directorate urges residents to remain vigilant and take immediate precautions following the confirmation of two human rabies deaths in the South and the investigation of an additional suspected case.

The confirmed cases involve two adult males from the Ethenjane area (Ward 105) who were reportedly exposed to the same dog on 4 July. Both individuals subsequently developed symptoms consistent with rabies, tested positive for the disease through laboratory confirmation, and sadly passed away in early August. A separate suspected case involving an elderly woman from Umnini is currently under investigation, with further diagnostic processes underway.

Rabies is a preventable but almost always fatal viral disease once symptoms develop.

The disease is commonly transmitted through the bite or scratch of an infected animal, particularly dogs. The recent cases highlight the ongoing public health risk posed by rabies and the importance of seeking immediate medical attention following any animal bite or exposure.

Historical surveillance data indicates that 19 human rabies deaths have been recorded in eThekwini between January 2021 and August 2026. Of these, 11 occurred within the south, underscoring the need for sustained prevention and control measures.

In response, a co-ordinated One Health Action Group comprising Communicable Disease Control, State Veterinary Services, Environmental Health Practitioners, Community Health Workers and other stakeholders has implemented a comprehensive response programme. Measures undertaken include active case investigations, community awareness campaigns, Healthcare Worker training, environmental health assessments ,and enhanced surveillance activities.

On 28 July, a targeted animal vaccination campaign was conducted in Ethenjane, Emapayipini and Mgalaza. The campaign successfully vaccinated 141 dogs and seven cats, treated 25 pets, distributed more than 300 educational pamphlets and engaged approximately 500 community members.

The Municipality is preparing to further intensify animal vaccination campaigns and public awareness initiatives across affected communities.

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

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