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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BUDGET/ IDP CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE

THE 2025/26 Draft Budget/ Integrated Development Plan (IDP) engagements will continue this week. Residents from uMlazi, Chatsworth, Pinetown, Amanzimtoti, Kloof and Adams Mission will have the opportunity to listen to eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba as he presents the City's plans for the upcoming financial year.

Each presentation is prepared according to the allocations in the specific area and residents are encouraged to vocalise their thoughts on development planned for their ward.

The R71.3 billion Draft Budget comprises of an operating budget of R64.2 billion and a capital budget of R7.1 billion.

Officials from relevant departments will also be present to answer questions and provide additional information. Mayor Xaba has emphasised that the consultations are not just a tick-boxing exercise. "This is your City, you must express what you feel about the plans for the upcoming financial year." Some of the concerns that have been raised by attendees at engagements thus far include water and electricity challenges, the need to upgrade infrastructure, street lights, safety and the proposed tariff increases. Proposed tariff increases for electricity is 12.72%, while water is 15% for domestic customers and 16% for business. Sanitation is 13% for domestic and 14% for business. Refuse removal is 9.9% for domestic and 9% for business. For property rates, the proposed tariff increase is 6.5%.

The IDP is a key strategy that guides development and service delivery in the City. It is a requirement of the Municipal Systems Act and drives the City's budget allocation.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba addressed service delivery concerns during a Budget/IDP consultation held at the Stonebridge Hall recently.

To view the documents visit **www.durban.gov.za or email: comments2021@durban.gov.za Watch eThekwini's social media platforms for more information on upcoming Budget/IDP engagements.**

OVERSIGHT VISIT TO R385M WATER TREATMENT PLANT

A delegation conducted an oversight visit to the R385 million Water Treatment Plant which will supply more than 18 villages in KwaXimba.

NATIONAL Minister of Water and Sanitation Pemmy Majodina led an oversight visit to a treatment plant in KwaXimba, Ward 1.

The R385-million two-phased project will supply over 7ml/d of water throughout the area – transporting water supply through a 7.4-kilometre pipeline.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said the project signifies government's commitment to fast-tracking services delivery.

"We have been working tirelessly to restore water supply in KwaXimba. The area previously depended on a reservoir in Cato Ridge through the Western Aqueduct."

Ward 1 Councillor and Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "Ward 1 is one of the largest wards in eThekwini. This project has been warmly welcomed by both residents and Amakhosi within the area."

The Minister was supported by her Deputy Minister David Mahlobo, uMngeni-uThukela's Sello Seithlolo, as well as Amakhosi from KwaXimba.

SIBAYA DEVELOPMENT PHASE 1 RECEIVES FINANCIAL GREEN LIGHT

An artist impression illustrates the envisioned appearance of the Sibaya Coastal Precinct upon completion.

ETHEKWINI Municipality's Economic Development and Planning Committee has unanimously endorsed infrastructure funding for phase one of the Sibaya Coastal Precinct. This is an ambitious mixed-use development projected to attract R11.3 billion in investment over the next three years and R23 billion over eight years.

The committee meeting, held on 30 April at the Durban City Hall, signalled a major milestone for the project, which includes residential, commercial, retail, and hospitality components. The development is expected to significantly boost Municipal revenue, with annual rates projected to grow from R219 million in 2025 to R770 million by 2032. Over the eight-year roll-out period, additional rates revenue is expected to total R3.8 billion.

To unlock the next development phase, crucial road infrastructure upgrades valued at R160 million are required. The developer has committed R152 million (95.1%) of the cost, while the Municipality will contribute R7.8 million (4.9%), subject to cost recovery from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport. These upgrades will enhance access via the M27 and M4 routes.

Beyond infrastructure, the socio-economic impact is substantial. The project is expected to create 50 000 temporary construction jobs and 20 000 permanent jobs. Local businesses will benefit through subcontracting opportunities, with skills development and learnerships offered to community members.

Committee Chairperson Councillor Thembo Ntuli welcomed the endorsement.

"This project is a critical element for inclusive economic growth and job creation, aligned with our Integrated Development Plan two. Our role is to ensure our committee drives transformative developments like Sibaya that open real opportunities for people. This is not just investment in infrastructure, it's investment in livelihoods and a more equitable City."

REBATES FOR WESTOWN SQUARE AND IKHAWINI SHOPPING CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS

TO attract and retain strategic investment, the Economic Development and Planning Committee has approved property rates rebates for two major developments under the City's Economic Development Incentive Policy (EDIP). The decision was made during a committee meeting on 30 April.

Westown Square (Pty) Ltd has been granted a 60 percent rates rebate over three years, while Leopoldo Property Development (Pty) Ltd will receive a 40 percent rebate for the same period. These incentives are designed to stimulate economic activity, create jobs, and boost investor confidence in eThekwini. Westown Square is a landmark greenfield development in outer west Durban, featuring 50 000 square metres of high-street retail space. With an estimated R15 billion in investment expected over the next 10 to 15 years, the Municipality has already committed R600 million to infrastructure upgrades, including roads, electricity, water, and sanitation.

The Westown Square (Pty) Ltd has been granted a 60 percent rates rebate over three years as part of incentives designed to stimulate economic activity, create jobs, and boost investor confidence in eThekwini.

Meanwhile, the Ikhawini Shopping Centre, a R27.4 million mixed-use development in Inanda by Leopoldo Property Development, will include a retail hub and fuel station. It is projected to create 175 permanent jobs once operational, enhancing local retail access and generating long-term municipal revenue through business and property rates.

SHOP ISSUED WITH PROHIBITION NOTICE FOR FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS

A SHWARMA shop in the oThongathi Central Business District has been ordered to close its doors with immediate effect after Environmental Health Practitioners from the City's North 6 Office uncovered serious food safety violations during a routine inspection.
The establishment was found to have multiple contraventions, including poor housekeeping, unhygienic conditions, structural damage, broken equipment, and improper food handling practices.
These violations are in breach of Regulation 638 of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics, and Disinfectants Act, which mandates strict standards for food preparation and hygiene.
Following these findings, a formal Notice of Prohibition was issued, compelling the business to cease operations until it meets all compliance requirements. The premises will only be allowed to reopen once a follow-up inspection confirms that all health and safety standards have been met. Phumzile Mzobe, Manager of the North 6 Office, explained that the inspection formed part of a focused campaign aimed at monitoring shwarma establishments in oThongathi and Verulam.
"We have a lot of shops selling shwarmas, which is a popular chicken wrap. Our role as a team is to safeguard public health. We are conducting inspections of tuck shops, visiting schools, and holding training sessions with informal traders on proper food handling and compliance with food safety standards. We have started a campaign specifically focusing on shops selling the chicken wraps," said Mzobe.

A shop in the oThongathi Central Business District was closed for violating health and safety standards.

POINT UPGRADE PROGRESSES

The City will be piloting the conversion of Shepstone Street between Dr Langalibalele Dube Street and Bell Street from one-way to two-way traffic flow between 5 May to 5 November 2025.

IN an effort to provide easier and safer accessibility to the Point area, eThekwini Municipality will be piloting the conversion of Shepstone Street between Dr Langalibalele Dube Street and Bell Street from one-way to two-way traffic flow between 5 May to 5 November 2025.

Shepstone Street currently has three lanes moving in a northward direction and one cycling lane. The conversion will allow traffic to move in opposite directions on two-lanes each way. The new two-way traffic flow will allow vehicles on the adjacent streets (Bay Terrace, Hospital Road, and South Beach Avenue) to join Shepstone Street in both south and north directions. Motorists will not be able to travel on Shepstone Street in a southward direction beyond the Bell Street intersection. From Shepstone Street, they will rejoin Mahatma Gandhi Road via Bell Street.

EThekwini Transport Authority Acting Head Nelisiwe Zama explained that the conversion is a trial. "During this time, the team will study and assess viability of Shepstone Street running on two-way traffic on a permanent basis. As we pilot this project, we ask motorists to be cautious when driving and follow the signage. Pedestrians are urged to safely use the dedicated crossing areas during this conversion."

Various work will be carried out to accommodate the new contraflow.

THREE YEAR PARTNERSHIP TO CO-HOST THE DURBAN JULY

THE Economic Development and Planning Committee has endorsed a strategic three-year partnership between eThekwini Municipality and Gold Circle to continue co-hosting the iconic Durban July for the 2025/26 financial year through to the 2027/28 financial year. The agreement, with a projected financial commitment of approximately R10 million over three years, aims to secure the future of South Africa's premier horse racing and lifestyle event.

Drawing over 45 000 attendees and millions of viewers globally, the Durban July is a flagship event for the City, boosting tourism, driving economic activity, and supporting the hospitality, creative, and fashion sectors. Councillors noted its role in destination marketing, job creation, and opening business opportunities for local entrepreneurs and service providers.

Durban Tourism Deputy Head Winile Mntungwa, presenting to the committee, emphasised the significance of event tourism: "The Durban July is one of our anchor events and a key driver of economic and tourism growth. In 2024 alone, it generated an economic impact of R717.42 million, with visitor spend reaching R152.86 million over the event weekend."

Mntungwa added that the multi-year sponsorship will also enable better planning around public safety, infrastructure support, and coordinated marketing efforts.

Chairperson of the Committee, Councillor Thembo Ntuli said major events like the Durban July stimulate local economic growth.

"Many sectors, from hospitality to dining, benefit from the showcase of Durban's vibracy and talent," he said.

THREE COMMUNITY BAKERIES TO RECEIVE UPGRADE

TO improve infrastructure and create a conducive environment for township businesses, the Economic Development and Planning Committee recommended reprioritising R750 000 from the 2024/25 capital budget to upgrade three community-run bakeries.

The funding will go toward constructing ablution facilities at bakeries in Lamontville (Ward 74), KwaDabeka (Ward 20), and Cottonlands (Ward 60). These upgrades will improve hygiene and working conditions critical for compliance, sustainability, and expansion.

These bakeries are part of a local economic development initiative aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and creating self-employment opportunities.

Presenting the report to the Committee was Programme Manager from the Municipality's Business Support, Tourism, Markets and Agri-Business Unit Nonhlanhla Khumalo.

Community-run bakeries in Lamontville, KwaDabeka, and Cottonlands are receiving vital infrastructure upgrades, including ablution facilities, to support business growth and job creation.

She said: "We are committed to creating self-employment opportunities and empowering communities through practical support. By investing in infrastructure and facilitating market access, we're helping township entrepreneurs grow sustainable businesses and become active players in the local economy."

This initiative aligns with the City's broader strategy to develop inclusive local economies, support small enterprises, and ensure that community-led businesses are integrated into formal economic systems.

Khumalo said the Business Support Unit also assists these enterprises access additional market opportunities.

Deputy Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Phili Ndlovu lauded the initiative for contributing to job creation and driving township economies.

UPGRADING THE CITY'S OCEAN ECONOMY

OFFICIALS from the City's Economic Development Unit attended a boat and ship building and repair workshop hosted by the eThekwini Marine Cluster at the Royal Hotel. The workshop emphasised the importance of leveraging the geographical advantages and natural resources of the Port of Durban and the coastline to unlock the ocean's economic opportunities.

This is where the boat building and ship repair industries play a crucial role, offering high-impact employment and export potential. The City can assist to prioritise focused investment in skills and enterprise development within the maritime value chain.

"Durban is one of Africa's busiest ports and its marine sector is not only part of our economy but also a fundamental structure to our development, job creation and global competitiveness," said Chairperson of the City's Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli, pictured below.

Chairperson: Economic Development and Planning Committee Cllr Thembo Ntuli

ESTABLISHING MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

IN line with the newly enacted Climate Change Act (Number 22 of 2024), the Economic Development and Planning Committee supported the creation of the eThekwini Municipality Climate Change Forum.

The forum will serve as a central platform to coordinate city-wide responses to climate risks, ensuring local strategies align with national legislation and comply with the International Governance Relations Framework Act (Number 13 of 2025).

The forum will facilitate policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration between government departments, industry, academia, and civil society. This proactive move positions eThekwini as a leader in strengthening urban resilience and addressing climate-induced challenges.

The forum's formation supports the City's broader sustainability goals, including reducing carbon emissions, building climate-resilient infrastructure, and integrating climate change considerations into economic planning.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said: "The establishment of this forum is a crucial step to ensure that the City remains resilient in the face of climate change."

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

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