ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

# ETHEKWINI WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

13 May 2025 [Issue 413]

# 2025 AFRICA'S TRAVEL INDABA TO UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

THE City is ready to host the more than 9 600 delegates from over 25 countries that will be attending Africa's Travel Indaba this week.

The renowned Africa's Travel Indaba takes place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 12 to 15 May.

The Indaba commenced with a Business Opportunities Networking Day (BONDay), a pivotal occasion facilitating crucial networking opportunities and thought leadership discussions on 12 May.

Themed 'Unlimited Africa', the Indaba is expected to reimagine the continent's limitless tourism opportunities it presents to the world.

The City's economy will benefit immensely from hosting this three-day long and largest trade showcase.

Hotel occupancy is expected to be between 87 to 97 percent with a projected R232 million spend for local businesses thus injecting a projected R575 million to the City's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). More than 1 000 jobs are expected to be created during this period.

Last year, the event contributed more than R479 million to the eThekwini GDP.

Security measures are in place with a safety and security plan to ensure visibility in all key strategic areas.

Speaking at the Durban-KZN Business Breakfast, eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said he was satisfied with the meticulous planning and proactive safety measures undertaken to guarantee a seamless and unforgettable experience for all attendees.

**EThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba welcomed Africa's Travel Indaba delegates at the Durban-KZN Business Breakfast. The breakfast was a pivotal engagement to connect, reflect and chart the course forward with valued stakeholders.**
**Africa's Travel Indaba takes place from 12 to 15 May under the theme 'Unlimited Africa'.**

He told delegates that the Indaba was more than just a discussion forum, but serves as the driving force behind Africa's tourism aspirations.

"It is a dynamic continental platform that stimulates investment, facilitates trade opportunities, and highlights the rich diversity and excellence of African destinations.

He said from the moment visitors land at King Shaka International Airport, the journey through Durban begins with the rolling hills of sugar cane and the glimmer of the Indian Ocean. "As they travel along the coastline, they are introduced to a City alive with opportunity and authenticity."

He added: "As part of our efforts to make Durban the gateway to unlimited Africa, we are improving our infrastructure, especially in key economic and tourism nodes. We are transforming our City into a place that does not attract visitors, but also inspires investment, innovation, and inclusion."

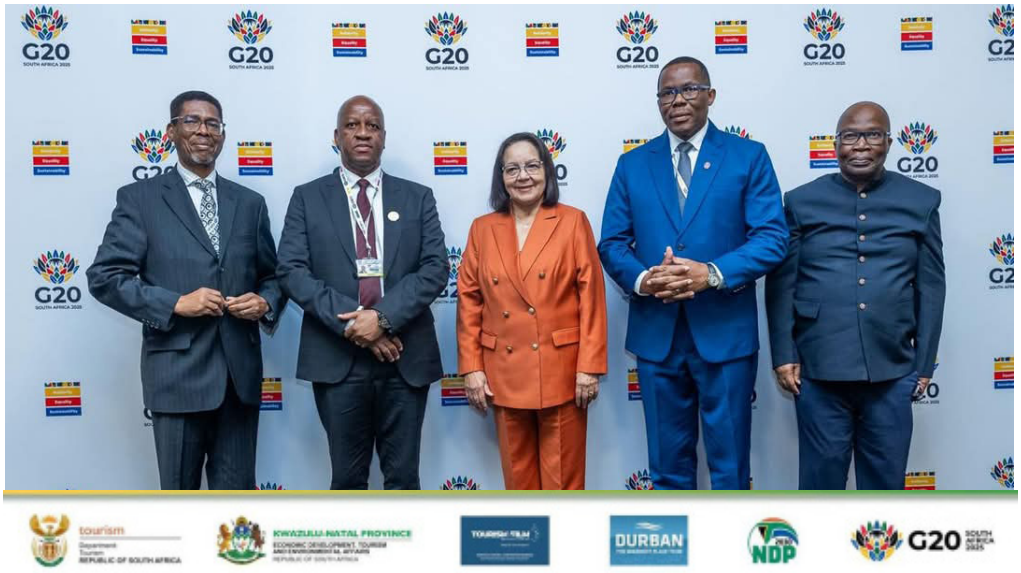
Mayor Xaba explained that the City has intensified the maintenance of infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and water and sanitation.

"We have seen these noticeable improvements in places like the uMhlanga promenade and key transport corridors. We are also reviving Urban Improvement Precincts with a special focus on crime prevention and cleanliness to make the City more welcoming and visitor friendly," he said.

Mayor Xaba added that the Municipality was also fast tracking the upgrade of sports venues, like the Moses Mabhida Stadium and Kings Park Pool with amounts of R236 million and R44 million respectively.

"These investments will strengthen Durban's capacity to host world-class events," he concluded.

# ETHEKWINI HOSTS G20 TOURISM MEETING




**From left, MEC for Economic Development and Tourism Rev Musa Zondi, KZN Premier Thami Ntuli, Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille, eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, and Sibusiso Ndebele during the official opening of the Tourism G20 meeting.**

THE MINISTER of Tourism Patricia de Lille officially opened the second G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting at Coastlands uMhlanga on 11 May.

She was supported by KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thami Ntuli, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs Rev Musa Zondi, and eThekwini Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba.

"As the only African member country of the G20, South Africa, in partnership with the African Union, is providing a vital voice in global discussions, especially concerning issues affecting developing nations and the African continent," said Minister de Lille.

Under the theme 'Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability', South Africa's G20 presidency highlights the nation's commitment to tourism innovation and investment, enhancing air connectivity, and developing inclusive and sustainable tourism policies.

"Your discussions during the next three days will not only inform what each G20 tourism minister decides and debates in September when we meet in Mpumalanga, but they will also inform what our heads of state finally agree on in Johannesburg during November," said the Minister.

The Tourism Working Group serves as a forum for the growth and development of sustainable tourism by promoting dialogue, the exchange of knowledge, and best practices among G20 members.

Premier Ntuli said hosting the event was a proud moment for KwaZulu-Natal and the nation, as it marks the first time a G20 Tourism event is being held on South African soil during the G20 Presidency.

"In KwaZulu-Natal we believe that tourism can be a bridge between economies and cultures, between the past we honour and the future we shape together. And in that spirit, we look forward to the conversations, connections, and collaborations that will emerge from this meeting."

The G20 meeting coincides with Africa's Travel Indaba, one of the continent's most prestigious tourism trade shows which started on Monday, 12 May.

Durban is proud to host these events which transforms the City into a global platform for thinkers, creators, and changemakers in the tourism sector.

# FLORIDA ROAD'S REVITALISATION WELCOMED

THE CITY'S marketing department, Durban Tourism proudly welcomes the revitalisation of Florida Road, recognising the initiative as a critical step in reshaping one of the City's most iconic precincts into a dynamic economic and lifestyle hub.

This redevelopment is being driven by strategic public-private collaboration under the Florida Road Urban Improvement Precinct (UIP), backed by both local and international investors.

The transformation comes at a pivotal time for Durban as it aims to enhance its urban offering and elevate its global competitiveness. With prominent investor Taahir Shah confirming interest from global and national brands, the area is set to undergo a major facelift that will see it transformed into a pedestrian-friendly destination. Shah, who owns several well-known brands including Nando's and Doppio Zero, is championing the vision of making Florida Road a premier attraction for both residents and tourists.

Durban Tourism acknowledges the hard work of the precinct stakeholders and commends their forward-thinking efforts.

Florida Road is a flagship destination for the City. Its rejuvenation is a win for tourism and a catalyst for economic recovery, investment attraction, and job creation. This reimagining of Florida Road is more than just a facelift—it represents a model for urban renewal that combines culture, commerce, and connectivity.

# CITY MANAGER CONDUCTS UNANNOUNCED SITE VISIT

**EThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele conducted a successful unannounced site visit to the uMlazi Roads and Stormwater Depot to assess the service delivery being provided to communities.**

TO bolster the Municipality's commitment to improving service delivery, eThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele recently conducted an unannounced visit to the uMlazi Roads and Stormwater Depot.

This initiative is part of a wider campaign led by the City Manager's Office together with the Human Capital Unit to resolve operational bottlenecks in the City.

The visit is the first in a series of joint initiatives to identify and address on-the-ground challenges in a bid to accelerate service delivery. The uMlazi Depot services uMlazi, Isiphingo, Malukazi, and Lamontville. Services offered include road maintenance, stormwater management, concrete repairs, open drain cleaning, traffic signage, and pothole repairs.

Mbhele said the visit was needed due to the service delivery challenges experienced by communities. "This is part of our zero-tolerance approach to non-service delivery which is affecting performance," he said.

He added that as the Accounting Officer of the City, it is his role to ensure that departments work efficiently and cohesively, and that the workforce is supported to deliver quality services.

"The primary aim is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery by addressing root causes and fostering a more responsive and accountable system," said Mbhele.

Among the concerns raised during the visit was infrastructure challenges, Human Resources related issues, and service delays due to overlapping departmental responsibilities.

A commitment was made to streamline processes and ensure that the Roads and Stormwater Department takes full control of relevant service areas for faster service delivery. A detailed intervention plan and report-back session will follow.

UMlazi Roads and Stormwater Depot Superintendent Moses Cele welcomed the initiative saying the exercise helps leadership understand their day-to-day work and challenges. "When management sees the reality on the ground, it brings hope to the teams and ensures that the right support systems can be put in place. We remain committed to providing services to communities," he said.

This joint initiative marks a proactive shift toward better internal coordination and improved community outcomes.

Residents can report concerns to the City's Roads and Stormwater Department via the toll-free number 080 131 3013 or email: ***Eservices@durban.gov.za.***

# UK-FUNDED TRANSPORT FOR LONDON VISIT TO ETHEKWINI

THE City is hosting a delegation from the Transport for London (TfL) from 12 to 14 May. The three-day workshop is a culmination of nearly a year's engagement between TfL and eThekwini Transport Authority (ETA) to identify and deliver expertise to support sustainable transport planning. The workshop is in line with ETA's vision which is focused on "providing and managing a world-class transport system with a focus on public transport and providing high levels of mobility and accessibility for the movement of people and goods in a safe, sustainable and affordable manner".

Chairperson of the Human Settlements, Engineering and Transport Committee Councillor Themba Mvubu welcomed the knowledge sharing workshop. "We look forward to implementing successful strategies to complement ETA's programmes."

Acting Head of ETA Nelisiwe Zama said some of the topics covered during this visit include integrated transport governance, project delivery lifecycle, and rail devolution.

**City officials together with a delegation from Transport for London are embarking on a three-day knowledge sharing workshop. This project is funded by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.**

# EMPOWERING SMMES IN FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER INDUSTRY

THE City's Economic Development Unit continues to support the eThekwini Footwear and Leather Cluster (EFLC).

This comes as the EFLC recently held a five-day Arsutoria International footwear and leather design workshop at Coastlands Hotel in uMhlanga.

The workshop, hosted in collaboration with the South African Footwear and Leather Exports Council (SAFLEC) and International Labour Organisation, offered hands-on training for Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in the footwear and leather industry.

Participants learnt about Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration, global fashion trends, and innovative material usage, all with the aim of improving their product offerings and industry growth.

**Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises in the footwear and leather industry attended a five-day Arsutoria International footwear and leather design workshop.**

The programme saw specialist teachers from Italy's Arsutoria School, which focuses on footwear and leather bags, provide local SMMEs with new techniques, networking possibilities, and market trends.

Nelisiwe Magubane, Economic Development Programme Manager, said the programme aimed to capacity local businesses to promote market competitiveness and expansion.

Participants had in-depth discussions about AIs advancing impact on fashion, learning about its ability to drive innovation and forecast trends. This knowledge is likely to encourage businesses to embrace AI technology, improving their capacity to foresee market movements and remain ahead of the competition.

Tyren Singh, a Designer from Tego footwear won a scholarship to Arsutoria School to advance his product designing development.

"The presentation of how they develop a new range and market products gave me a deeper understanding of how to create a brand and trends that will sell," said Singh.

SAFLEC's training sessions aim to address the design deficiency in the City's footwear and leather industry, enabling manufacturers to create competitive products, catalyse export growth, and drive economic growth by providing them with the latest

# MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS REFORMS SEMINAR PROMOTES DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CULTURE

THE City's Economic Development Unit hosted neighbouring municipalities and stakeholders from the private sector for the Municipal Systems Reforms Seminar. The seminar, which took place at the GovLab innovation offices, aimed to enhance service delivery, financial stability, community participation, business ease, and organisational efficiency. These reforms encourage municipalities to develop a culture of digital transformation of municipal systems through a transversal and participatory governance approach.

Dr. Nuthan Maharaj, Economic Development Programme Manager, emphasised the seminar's objective of fostering a community for peer learning and partnership-building to improve the customer experience. "The adoption of a more business-orientated approach is not aimed at running a municipality like a profit-bound company, but rather to ensure that scarce resources are allocated and spent effectively," she said.

**The City's Economic Development Unit hosted neighbouring municipalities and stakeholders from the private sector for the Municipal Systems Reforms Seminar.**

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

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