

CITY TO HOST GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON WATER CHALLENGES IN 2025

IN A momentous announcement, Durban has been selected as the host for the prestigious 19th World Water Conference taking place in 2025.

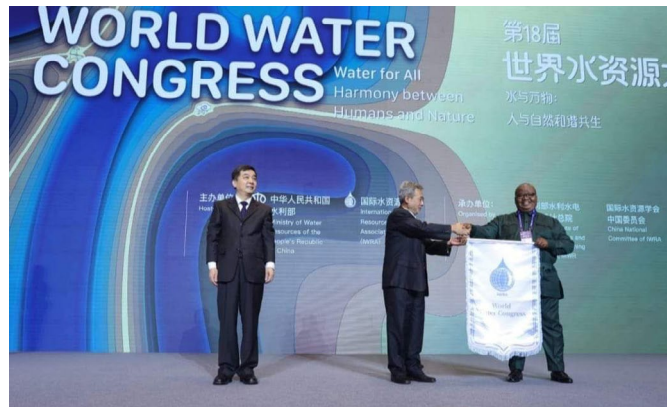
The conference is set to inject about R340 000 000 into the local economy.

EThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele, who is currently in Beijing, China, received the symbolic baton from the President of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) Li Yuanyuan and the Minister of Water Resources in Beijing Li Guoying.

This marked the official handover to Durban.

This important event comes at a crucial time when our City and other parts of the country, face substantial water challenges.

"We can confirm that the 2025 event in the City of Durban will be co-hosted with our partners in Sub-Saharan Africa and the African continent as a whole, reinforcing our commitment



EThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele received the symbolic baton from the President of the International Water Resources Association Li Yuanyuan and the Minister of Water Resources in Beijing Li Guoying for the City to host the 19th World Water Conference in 2025.

to finding regional solutions to water-related issues," Mbhele said during the closing ceremony in Beijing.

The South African delegation attending the 18th World Water Conference includes

representatives from KwaZulu-Natal and the City, led by Mbhele in support of the bid submitted by the Convention Bureau to host this event in Durban.

"The significance of hosting

this international conference in Durban cannot be overstated. This event presents an exceptional opportunity to address and seek solutions to water-related challenges. It is an occasion to exchange knowledge, promote essential research, and leave a legacy for residents," said Mbhele.

Building upon the success of this year's conference, Durban can anticipate a significant influx of global participation at the 19th World Water Conference in 2025.

The event is projected to attract over 3 000 distinguished delegates, with a warm welcome extended to more than 10 000 enthusiastic visitors.

The conference provides a platform for over 90 exhibitors to showcase cutting-edge innovations in the field.



Chairperson: Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee
Cllr Themba Mvubu

DURBAN ICC SCOOPS FIVE-STAR RATING FROM TOURISM GRADING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) has once again been awarded with a prestigious five-star rating by the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA). The TGCSA's five-star rating is the highest accolade bestowed upon establishments in South Africa's tourism and hospitality sector. This achievement underscores

the Durban ICC's unwavering commitment to excellence in the hospitality and events industry.

It serves as a testament to the Durban ICC's dedication to delivering world-class service, exceptional facilities, and memorable experiences to its clients, delegates, and visitors.

Since its inception, the Durban ICC has consistently upheld the highest standards of quality,

professionalism, and customer service.

This five-star rating reflects not only the centre's role as a catalyst for economic growth in the region but also its unwavering commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation in the global meetings and events industry.

Lindiwe Rakharebe, CEO of the Durban ICC, said: "We are

immensely proud to once again receive the five-star rating from the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa. This recognition underscores the Durban ICC's dedication to excellence."



Chairperson: Economic Development and Planning Committee
Cllr Thembo Ntuli

CEO'S FORUM DISCUSSES PORT DEVELOPMENTS AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE CITY

THE business sector welcomed plans to develop and expand the port as well as to address issues of decongestion during the annual CEO's Forum. It was hosted by eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda on 15 September at the Moses Mabhidha Stadium.

The programme was held under the theme 'Durban Port Development: Implications for Durban Businesses'.

The Forum provided a platform for the City to respond to some of the high-level issues business has raised at various engagements. It also looked at how the City and the private sector can collaborate to deal with some of the economic and social challenges facing Durban.

The Forum brought together captains of industry, experts, business leaders, academia, business formations and stakeholders to discuss the Durban Port Development, its implication for Durban businesses, and opportunities related to port infrastructure, operations, and management.

Mayor Kaunda assured the business sector that the City is working with relevant stakeholders to ease congestion at the port. "We assure you that government is giving this matter the attention it requires as we are determined to ensure that Durban continues to grow to become a globally competitive



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda hosted a successful CEO's Forum which brought together experts, business leaders, academia, and stakeholders to discuss the Durban Port Development, its implication for Durban businesses, and opportunities related to port infrastructure, operations, and management.

port city. To further demonstrate government's commitment to this project, President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the port last year and announced bold plans to improve infrastructure to eliminate congestion and unnecessary delays," he said.

Transnet CEO Portia Derby said the entity is working with various stakeholders, including eThekweni Municipality, to increase and improve the capacity and efficiency of the Durban Port. The maritime sector is a core sector for economic growth, and they are working in close collaboration with universities to ensure that specific skills are available for the sector, she said.

Derby highlighted the key aspects of the Durban Port

Development and delved into future developments of South African ports including in Richards Bay. She said plans are afoot for the expansion and improvement of the port to create a more efficient and profitable port. "The port is a catalyst for expansion of existing businesses and creation of new businesses in Durban and surrounding areas," said Derby.

She explained that her team has been working to turn around the ports, to make them competitive with the rest of the continent and the world.

The CEO's Forum provided a platform for participants to network and forge partnerships with key players in the port and maritime industry.

DURBAN GEARS UP TO HOST 11TH ANNUAL TRANSPORT EVOLUTION AFRICA FORUM AND EXPO

DURBAN will once again host the 11th annual Transport Evolution Africa Forum and Expo on 20 to 22 September. The event is supported by eThekweni Municipality. This unique gathering serves as the primary annual expo and forum, bringing together local, regional, and international stakeholders, both public and private, who are instrumental in the planning, construction, investment, and supply of Africa's vital ports, rail, and road infrastructure.

The African transport sector is currently experiencing a profound transformation, driven by factors such as institutional restructuring, digitisation, and climate change-induced innovations. The Transport Evolution Africa Forum & Expo serves as a platform to showcase the latest projects and products while offering valuable industry insights, experiences, and networking opportunities for a deeper understanding of the current landscape and future prospects.

Taking place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC), the event boasts a line-up of over 100 exhibitors, attracting thousands of visitors, and over 400 VIPs, and conference delegates. Transport Evolution Africa stands as the pivotal meeting point for stakeholders across the entire transport and logistics value chain.

For more information <https://transportevolution.com/>

Street begging is against the law

STREET begging does not only pose a risk to motorists but is also against the City's by-laws. The Nuisances and Behaviour in Public Places By-law states: "No person may approach any pedestrian or a person inside a motor vehicle on any public road or public road intersection or any other public place for the purposes of begging from such pedestrian or person in a motor vehicle."

The City discourages motorists from offering monetary assistance to street beggars as this

prolongs their stay on the street, and puts their lives in danger.

The City seeks to curb this challenge by engaging all relevant stakeholders in pursuit of developing an integrated programme.

EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni said it is important for motorists and the public to report to the Metro Police when they see children begging or dancing on the streets for money. Once street beggars are reported, social workers will be engaged to facil-

itate for the care and safety of the vulnerable children. Social workers will investigate to see if there is a genuine problem at home or if the children are being exploited by adults.

Using children to beg on the streets and forcing them to beg is illegal under child exploitation provisions in South African law.



Deputy Mayor and Chairperson: Emergency Services Committee
Cllr Zandile Myeni



ONGOING ENGAGEMENT WITH RATEPAYER ASSOCIATIONS TO DRIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda and Speaker of Council Thabani Nyawose met with the eThekweni Ratepayers and Residents Associations in Phoenix on 15 September.

The association incorporates areas such as Chatsworth, Clare Estate, Queensburgh, Reservoir Hills, Phoenix, and Verulam.

The ratepayers extended their appreciation to the leadership of the City for making the time to meet with them to discuss pertinent issues concerning development and service delivery.

The overarching message from ratepayers was that “eThekweni belongs to all of us and we need to make it work”.

They said while they understand that issues won't be fixed overnight, the time to forge partnerships was now. Working



The leadership of eThekweni Municipality continues to strengthen collaboration with the City's ratepayers to accelerate service delivery.

together, said the ratepayers, will help resolve challenges.

Among the issues raised by residents included ageing infrastructure, refuse collection, and water and electricity outages.

Responding to these issues, the Municipality has set up teams of plumbers to fix water

leaks and sewer spillages, often caused by the abuse of sewer infrastructure.

Councillor Nyawose stressed the importance of ward councillors holding regular community meetings to respond to complaints of the community timeously, working with City

officials.

Mayor Kaunda made a commitment to intervene on service delivery challenges raised by the association. He also said at the end of the ongoing engagements with ratepayers, the City will assign service delivery champions to each association who will be intervening on service delivery challenges in various areas. “This will be supported by the new zonal service delivery model which entails the clustering of wards and adequate allocation of staff that will fix service delivery complaints promptly. The City has also prioritised budget to purchase jetting machines to address the challenges of sewer spillages. Recently, we have unveiled a new fleet of grass cutting tractors to clear overgrown verges.

STATE OF THE CITY PRESENTED DURING NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES WEEK

THE good state of the City and the concerted effort being made to enhance service delivery was highlighted by eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda when he presented the State of the Municipality during the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Week. Mayor Kaunda led a delegation of officials to present the good work being undertaken in the City during an engagement held at the Chesterville Extension Community Hall on 14 September. This forms part of the NCOP visit to different provinces and municipalities to

assess infrastructure projects as part of the Provincial Week Programme. The programme is being held under the theme ‘Building viable provincial and municipal infrastructure for effective delivery of services to communities.

Mayor Kaunda's presentation covered a wide range of issues including progress after the April and May 2022 flood disasters, revenue management, progress on projects funded through the Municipal Disaster Response Grant and expenditure on the Urban Settlement Development Grant.



eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda presented the state of the City during National Council of Provinces Week.

EMPLOYEES AT THE HEART OF ACCELERATING SERVICE DELIVERY

AIMED at accelerating service delivery, the Human Capital Unit held their first in-person Siyalalela Workshop at the City Health Auditorium (Archie Gumede Place) on 14 September. During COVID-19 the sessions were held online. Siyalalela which translates to ‘We are listening,’ is aimed at listening to the concerns of employees to help the City make better decisions and create strategies that will fast track services to the public.

Chairperson of the Governance and Human Capital Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala said listening to the concerns of the workforce creates a space for employees to voice their opinions on business decisions and actions.

“It's about creating an environment of improved employee morale and engagement and also to understand the challeng-

es staff face when performing their duties. By addressing their concerns, we increase productivity which also strengthens working relationships,” he said.

Head of Human Capital (HC) Sihle Mkhize said the Siyalalela campaign is an opportunity for employees on all levels to engage with their head and deputy head.

The HC Unit falls within Plan 5 of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), specifically Supporting Organisational Design, Human Capital Development and Management. HC has two primary programmes within the IDP, namely Providing Human Capital Empowerment and Organisational Transformation.



Chairperson: Governance & Human Capital Committee
Cllr Nkosenhle Madlala



CITY GEARS UP FOR 25TH DURBAN BUSINESS FAIR AND 12TH DURBAN FASHION FAIR

CELEBRATING 25 years of positively impacting local businesses, the Durban Business Fair (DBF) takes place this week from 20 to 22 September at the Durban Exhibition Centre.

The DBF is being held under the theme '25 Years of building sustainable businesses' and will feature over 550 locally manufactured goods and services, a street market as well as a wide range of empowerment activities.

Also taking place simultaneously is the 12th Durban Fashion Fair (DFF) which will bring together designers, buyers, and retailers to showcase designers and to facilitate access to market opportunities and potential buyers.



It's all systems go for the iconic Durban Fashion Fair taking place from 20 to 22 September at the Durban ICC. Get your ticket now at Webtickets, Boxer or Pick 'n Pay to ensure you don't miss out on this exciting fashion extravaganza.

Themed 'Shades of Liberation', the DFF showcase will comprise of 11 shows featuring 40 local and African designers as well as the Class of 2023 DFF mentees.

A teaser showcase was held on 17 September to whet the appetite of

attendees.

The event was held at Oceans Mall, uMhlanga Piazza where 2023 DFF models strutted their stuff.

To support the DFF, buy your tickets at Boxer and Pick 'n Pay outlets and from www.webtickets.co.za

WORKING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY

TO BUILD a stronger partnership with organised civil society, eThekweni Municipality convened a Multi-Sectoral External Stakeholders Forum Workshop at the Moses Mabhida Stadium on 14 September. The purpose of the workshop was to draft the Terms of Reference for an inclusive multi-sectoral stakeholder forum.

eThekweni Speaker Councillor Thabani Nyawose said the Durban Coalition and the Municipality recognised the need for an inclusive mechanism for meaningful engagement on a range of strategic issues affecting the City.

"In order to brainstorm the nature and form of such a vehicle, we agreed that key participants from civil society will come together with senior leadership from eThekweni Municipality for a full-day workshop to draft the Terms of Reference for a multi-stakeholder forum," said Councillor Nyawose.

The Durban Coalition represents a diverse range of stakeholders and communities, including ratepayer associations, leaders of social movements on justice for informal settlements, and civic leaders from Durban hostels and others. It seeks to create a co-ordinated network of civil society organisations that will provide solidarity and mutual support to each other, united in the course to promote social, economic, and environmental justice within the eThekweni municipal area.

Durban Coalition representative Sogen Moodley said they request a more systematic engagement between City officials, civil society, and other stakeholders to create a social compact with local government.

COASTAL CLEAN-UPS NET 2 800 BAGS OF WASTE

VARIOUS stakeholders joined the City to clean up beaches in commemoration of International Coastal Clean-up. Held under the theme 'Sea the change', the campaign aims to create awareness on the importance of the marine environment and to promote proper waste management practices.

The following beaches were targeted namely Treasure, Dakota, Cuttings, Reunion and the River Mouth.

Around 2 800 bags of waste were collected from the clean-ups. The most prevalent items collected were discarded clothing, plastics, polystyrene food packaging, burnt candles, animal carcasses and beverage bottles.



Various stakeholders joined the City and cleaned up beaches in commemoration of International Coastal Clean-up resulting in 2 800 bags of waste collected.

Chairperson of the Community and Emergency Services Committee Councillor Zama Sokhabase said it is exciting to see stakeholders working with the Municipality to ensure the marine environment is preserved. "The scourge of pollution at beaches is increasing, the beach clean-

ups were necessary to protect the environment," said Councillor Sokhabase. She said ensuring clean beaches was of paramount importance.



Chairperson: Community Services Committee
Cllr Zamazulu Sokhabase

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