

## EVENTS AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES BOOST CITY'S TOURISM SECTOR

**T**HE electrifying atmosphere for the sold-out MTN8 clash between Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns saw an estimated 60 000 soccer fans from across the country converge in Durban. This brought a much-needed boost to the local tourism sector with the expected total direct spend to be injected into the local economy from this past weekend being approximately R43 million, with a contribution of R108 million to the GDP. Projected contribution to taxes is around R8 million with a total of 208 jobs created.

The hotel occupancy was reported to be at 95 percent due to bookings of those attending the match as well as conferences taking place at the award-winning Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre over the weekend.

eThekweni Municipality's City Manager Musa Mbhele said the City was abuzz with various activations taking place in prominent tourism precincts over the weekend.

"This was a perfect opportunity to promote the City's many attractions. A highlight of this past weekend was showcasing our capability to host major events that are incident-free. We are sending a message to the 950 000 travellers anticipated to flock to Durban for the summer holidays that we are ready to host them," he said.

Mbhele said: "This is an indication of how crucial tourism is to drive local economic growth and create employment opportunities. This is why we are doubling down on our efforts to promote



**KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube handed over the MTN8 trophy to champions Orlando Pirates who defeated Mamelodi Sundowns in the MTN8 final at the Moses Mabhida Stadium on 7 October.**

destination Durban to attract tourists that will spend in the City and boost local tourism businesses."

Mbhele said the City will continue to beef up law enforcement personnel at tourism sites to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

The successful hosting of the highly anticipated match further reiterated that Durban is Africa's leading events and

festivals destination.

Mbhele said hosting big events not only benefits the tourism sector but also related value chains such as the township and informal economy and the transport sector.

He said the City's capability of hosting major events comes as no surprise as the City came out tops in the 2022 World Travel Awards in the Events and Festivals Category for the

second consecutive year. He said eThekweni was also elected for the sixth consecutive year as Africa's Leading Meetings and Conference Destination.

Events lined-up for the festive season in Durban include Endless Summer, 503 Music, Any Given Sunday, Xmas Ekasi, Durban Underground, Music is King, Fact Durban Rocks, and the Annual All White Elegant Lifestyle to name a few.

## NEW R75M FUTURELIFE MANUFACTURING FACILITY TO CREATE JOBS

THE CITY'S efforts to attract business investments to stimulate economic growth is reaping the benefits. This comes as the R75 million Futurelife manufacturing facility was unveiled on 5 October.

The facility is located at the Dube Trade Zone and expected to expand from next year, injecting millions into the province's and the City's economy.

MEC of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Siboniso Duma said the state-of-the-art facility will not only boost the economy but has also created hope of better economic prospects for neighbouring communities.

"It is exciting to witness that this magnificent plant is currently employing 196 employees. Next year more than 230 people will be employed permanently," he said.

Commercial Vice President of PepsiCo Mark Bunn said they are excited to officially



**MEC of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Siboniso Duma together with the Commercial Vice President of PepsiCo Mark Bunn and Riaan Heyl, CEO of PepsiCo South Africa, unveiled the R75 million state-of-the-art Futurelife manufacturing facility.**

unveil the nutrition production facility in South Africa. "We are a proudly South African manufacturing business that will continue to make a difference in communities and contribute to the growth of the economy of KwaZulu-Natal," he said.

He said through partnerships, the facility is committed to supporting neighbouring communities while entrenching its manufacturing footprint in the country.

The City is earmarked for massive growth from several investment catalytic projects over the next few years, which will transform eThekweni's economic landscape.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli welcomed the unveiling of the Futurelife facility. He commended them for choosing Durban as their investment city of choice.

## ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY READY TO HOST THE 29<sup>TH</sup> SAMA AWARDS

SOON after successfully hosting a spectacular MTN 8 final between Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns this past weekend, Durban has once again been announced as the city of choice to stage the 29th South African Music Awards (SAMAs).

The awards are set to take place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 17 and 18 November 2023.

The SAMAs will be returning to KwaZulu-Natal after eight years, thanks to a partnership between the event organisers and the province's Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

This new partnership will see the awards held in the province for the next three years.

eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said he looked forward to the thousands of visitors expected to descend on the City for the awards.

"It is a great platform to market destination Durban to the millions of viewers and music lovers who will be attending the SAMAs ahead of the festive season," he said.

Mayor Kaunda said eThekweni is known for its capability of hosting major events, which bring a major boost for the local tourism sector and related value chains.

"We expect 123 job opportunities to be created from hosting the SAMAs, which is also an opportunity for local small businesses to thrive," he said.

The City anticipates a direct spend of R25 million with the injection to the City's Gross Domestic Product estimated to be R63 million.



## NEGOTIATIONS TO REDETERMINE BOUNDARIES ONGOING

A PROPOSAL from eMkhambathini and uMgungundlovu District Municipality to redetermine municipal boundaries was refuted by eThekweni Municipality. This emanated during a meeting on 4 October that was facilitated by the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB).

The MDB is responsible for determining boundaries between municipalities and wards in South Africa.

UMkhambathini Local Municipality proposed the redetermination of boundaries by excluding the Cato Ridge Library activities room voting district from the eThekweni Municipality Municipal area and to include it into



**Ward 1 Councillor Thembo Ntuli and KwaXimba traditional leaders listen to submissions about the redetermination of municipal boundaries.**

the uMkhambathini Local Municipal area.

According to eThekweni Municipality, there are too many catalytic projects involving millions of rands investment which are currently underway in the Cato Ridge area. Cato Ridge is a prime industrial area for the City and moving this into another ward

will hamper the development and job creation the City has planned for it. This area currently falls under Ward 1. The property value in the area they are proposing is estimated to be approximately R1.28 billion. The Municipality generates R38.9 million annually from the above-mentioned property value.



# SITE VISIT CONDUCTED TO ASSESS CURRENT TEMPORARY TAXI RANK FACILITY IN UMHLANGA

A SITE visit was conducted on 6 October at the proposed temporary facility at the Oceans Development to accommodate taxi associations from the Greater North Region.

The site visit was facilitated by the eThekweni Transport Authority (ETA) along with members from the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), the Oceans Mall Developer and their respective consultants.

The visit was to ascertain if the proposed site was appropriate to accommodate 120 holding bays and 90 ranking bays to cater for the taxi operations within the uMhlanga precinct.

The initial plan for the taxi facility proposed by the developer was to house about 90 holding bays which included 9 bays for ranking.

This proposal however was not supported by SANTACO on the basis that there was inadequate holding and ranking bays to accommodate their current taxi operations.

Following the site visit, further steps are to be taken which include conducting a survey to determine the number of required parking bays for holding and ranking.

Officials from ETA, SANTACO,



**Tim Davis, Development Manager of Oceans Mall and Nelisiwe Zama, Deputy Head of Strategic Transport Planning, at a site visit of the proposed temporary facility at the Oceans Development to accommodate taxi associations from the Greater North Region.**

the developer and their respective consultants will have a follow up meeting this week to further discuss practical solutions to this prevailing challenge.

SANTACO Greater North Region Chairperson Sifiso Mthethwa welcomed the efforts of the City to find a lasting solution.

“The site visit with the developer and the Municipality allowed the parties to have

a practical understanding of our current situation and how best we can work together to find a lasting solution. The meeting next week will help to unpack the survey and data collection process further,” said Mthethwa.

CEO of the Oceans Umhlanga Development Brian Mpono welcomed the efforts of ETA for leading the way to finding a practical solution by facilitating the site visit to witness the

current temporary taxi rank.

“The current temporary taxi rank, which was open for use in mid-September 2023, was witnessed by all parties present and its now being extended to include a total of 91 bays,” said Mpono.



**Chairperson: Human Settlements and Infrastructure Committee**  
Cllr Themba Mvubu

## BUSINESS WORKSHOPS TO EMPOWER SMMES

A SERIES of business empowerment workshops will be held throughout October to empower small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs). This will afford SMMEs attending the workshops an opportunity to connect with business stakeholders. They will receive information from business experts to help grow their businesses as well as from financial institutions while learning about opportunities available that will benefit them. The workshops start at 09h00 and are planned as follows:

- 11 October, KwaNyuswa, Ward 103, Don McKenzie Sports Field
  - 18 October, KwaXimba, Ward 1, KwaXimba Community Hall
  - 20 October, KwaMashu L, Ward 47, KwaMashu L Community Hall
  - 24 October, Clermont, Ward 92, Eringini Community Hall
  - 25 October, uMlazi AA, Ward 84, Mandlakazulu Community Hall.
- The workshops are being hosted by the City's

Business Support, Tourism, Markets and Agri-Business Unit together with stakeholders in the private sector.

Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli said the committee's core objective is to ensure it facilitates inclusive economic development and job creation. They also work to drive the radical economic transformation agenda, in line with Integrated Development Plan Two, he said.

“We can only achieve this if we continue empowering, skilling, and connecting SMMEs with valuable information, tools, and opportunities. SMMEs play a crucial role in driving local economic growth and development and contribute significantly to job creation and overall prosperity.”

- To attend the business empowerment workshops or for more information, email nosizwe.mbunquka@durban.gov.za or call 031 311 4500.



# ADVANCED AUTOMATED LOAD SHEDDING SYSTEM IN ETHEKWINI LAUDED

ETHEKWINI Municipality added yet another feather in its cap when it scooped the award for the Top Performing Project at the annual Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities (AMEU) 69th Conference gala dinner. The conference was held in Gauteng on 3 October.

This recognition is testament to the outstanding work being carried out by the City's Electricity Unit's High Voltage Network Control Division, specifically for implementing an automated load shedding system.

EThekwini Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda applauded the team for their commendable innovation and said that the award was validation that the City was geared at being a smart city where innovation thrives.

"When visitors come into the City, they marvel at how we manage load shedding better than other cities. This is simply because while other cities endure four hours of load shedding, eThekwini Municipality has a two-hour schedule due to the automation



**EThekwini Municipality won the Top Performing Project Award at the AMEU 69th Conference Gala Dinner. This was for the automated load shedding system implemented by High Voltage Network Control Division.**

and vastness of our electricity network," he said.

Mayor Kaunda said if Eskom requires five-megawatts of power from the City, eThekwini is able to provide it while ensuring that residents and businesses are not adversely affected.

"The automation has allowed us to switch the system on and off in real time which makes the period of load shedding predictable," he said.

Infrastructure damage caused by the floods and the re-introduction of higher load shedding stages in eThekwini posed a challenge for the City, said Mayor Kaunda.

However, he said the High Voltage Network Control Division worked tirelessly to address these challenges and develop an automated load shedding system.

"This system aims to minimise the disruption

caused by load shedding and ensure a more efficient and reliable supply of electricity to residents and businesses. We are proud that their great work is being recognised and awarded," said Mayor Kaunda.

The Mayor said the automated load shedding system has not only enhanced the efficiency of the Municipality's electricity supply but has also paved the way for future advancements in the field. By streamlining load shedding processes, the system has reduced the impact on businesses, industries, and residents, ensuring a smoother transition during power outages.

"EThekwini Municipality acknowledges the ongoing challenges posed by load shedding and remains committed to finding further innovative solutions to enhance the City's electrical network. This award serves as motivation to continue striving for excellence and delivering a reliable and sustainable electricity supply to residents," concluded Mayor Kaunda.

## CITY APPOINTED TO SERVE AT WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S CLIMATE COMMISSION

ETHEKWINI Municipality has been appointed to serve in the World Economic Forum's Global Commission on Nature Positive Cities.

The Commission enjoins the world's cities to take practical steps to deal with climate and nature emergencies. This is a new global undertaking to protect oceans, rivers, forests, and many other ecosystems upon which sustainable development rests, going beyond the global ambition for a low carbon development pathway.

Speaking at the kick-off meeting alongside Mayors of San Francisco, Incheon, Barranquilla, and Belem do Para, eThekwini Mayor Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda said Durban was greatly honoured to be included among this high-level cohort of cities advancing the "beyond net-zero commitment" in addressing the climate emergency.

He said the meeting came at a time when cities around the world are grappling with rapid urbanisation and struggling to meet service delivery demands,

which was compounded by unprecedented migration flows.

In response to these challenges, the City has invested significantly in protecting, managing, and restoring important ecosystems through the Community Ecosystem based Adaptation Approach (CEBA). This has always been at the core of the City's response to property, infrastructure, and ecosystem vulnerability. In 2021, the City adopted the Transformative Riverine Management Programme (TRMP) which

is aimed at rehabilitating Durban's 7400 km of rivers to protect infrastructure and property from flood damage, saving millions of rands in avoided costs maintenance and repair.

The TRMP approach has elevated the protection of natural ecosystems to one of Durban's priority programmes that address socio-economic and environmental problems in the most inclusive and cost-effective manner.

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