

NEW DURBAN BEACH CAFÉ PREMIUM LOUNGE BRINGS UPMARKET OFFERING TO BEACHFRONT

ETHEKWINI Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba launched the Durban Beach Café premium lounge on 22 November, marking yet another significant milestone in the City's efforts to enhance the beachfront as a key tourism asset. This comes as Mayor Xaba prepares to unpack the measures the City will implement to ensure a safe festive season, working with various stakeholders, during the Festive Season Management Committee (FESMAC) launch on 27 November.

Mayor Xaba said: "This property was part of the first batch of properties to be advertised in 2021 after Council took a resolution to adopt the Pro-active Land Release Strategy. Calypso Property Investment, which is a 100 percent black-



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba officially opened the Durban Beach Café on the Durban beachfront ahead of the highly anticipated festive season.

owned company, was appointed as the preferred bidder for the long-term leasing and redevelopment of the property for a period of nine years and 11 months."

Mayor Xaba said the City is pleased that this redevelopment has created an iconic restaurant that captures the spirit of Durban. "The opening of the Durban Beach Café is

a major step forward in our efforts of implementing grand plans for the beachfront. Our main goal is to give all our assets in this precinct a major facelift to meet international standards. We will soon be announcing bold plans about the Joe Cools, The Deck, and the Fun World sites," he said.

Sadha Naidoo, CEO of Calypso Group, said the redeveloped venue now has a total capacity of 450 people, with both indoor and outdoor curated spaces. "The Durban Beach Café is the second phase of the development, in which we have invested R11 million, funded by the National Empowerment Fund. This has resulted in the creation of 44 sustainable jobs with more people employed temporarily during busy periods," said Naidoo.

ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY STRENGTHENS SPAZA SHOP COMPLIANCE

THE CITY has been actively responding to President Cyril Ramaphosa's call to regulate spaza shops and tuck-shops following the spate of recent food poisoning incidents across the country. The Municipality's Business Licensing Department has received 412 new business license applications since 18 November. The Business Licensing Department currently maintains a database of 4 700 spaza shops. Each application undergoes a thorough vetting process, which includes collaboration with several key departments such as Town Planning, Environmental Health, Fire and Emergency Services, and

the Metro Police. Applicants receive their licenses only after meeting all necessary requirements.

Qondi Liqwa, Business Licensing Manager within the Municipality's Business Support, Tourism, Markets, and Agri-Business Unit, described the increase in applications as positive. The Municipality hosted three compliance workshops recently in various regions, where on-site registration of business applications was facilitated. "Compliance workshops are held regularly to enforce regulations and are conducted in collaboration with Environmental Health, Metro Police, the Department

of Home Affairs, and other authorities. Over 20 workshops were successfully hosted in the past quarter," added Liqwa. Additionally, regular site visits to spaza shops are conducted to ensure compliance, with action taken against those found non-compliant. Once applications are received, a thorough review process begins, involving several departments. Reports are sent to the Town Planning and Building Department for approval, and the licensing process requires clearance from Land Use Management, Environmental Health, Fire and Emergency Services, the Building Department, and Metro Police. Once approvals

are granted, applicants submit the required documents, pay fees, and are given 21 days to meet Fire and Emergency Services and Health Department requirements. Licenses are granted when all conditions are met. The business license renewal process for all license holders begins on 1 December and runs until 31 January 2025. Renewal is free of charge and can be done in person at Regional Licensing offices or via the Municipality's Business Licensing online portal at www.durban.gov.za

The deadline for registering businesses, issued by the national government, is 13 December.

RESURGENCE BUSINESS CONFERENCE STRENGTHENS TIES BETWEEN NEW YORK AND DURBAN

THE ReSURGEncE Business Conference, held from 22 to 24 November in New York City, brought together prominent industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and government officials from the United States and South Africa. The event focused on unlocking the economic potential of the African market and fostering partnerships that could drive growth across sectors.

The Durban delegation was led by Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Unit Councillor Thembo Ntuli, eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele, Rev Dennis Dellon, with other members of the Durban delegation at the 2024 New York Resurgence Conference. The team promoted collaboration to boost trade and investment opportunities in Durban during the conference.



Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Unit Councillor Thembo Ntuli, eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele, Rev Dennis Dellon, with other members of the Durban delegation at the 2024 New York Resurgence Conference. The team promoted collaboration to boost trade and investment opportunities in Durban during the conference.

that benefits both regions. The collaborations will unlock opportunities in trade, infrastructure, and tourism, paving the way for long-term economic growth," said Councillor Ntuli.

This conference builds on the success of the inaugural Durban ReSURGEncE Conference held at Durban's International Convention Centre in July, further cementing the commitment of both cities to global economic integration.

Mbhele highlighted the mutual benefits for SMMEs in both cities.

During their visit, the Durban delegation also met with Queens' Deputy Borough President Ebony Young to discuss a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will focus on cultural exchange, knowledge sharing, and tourism.

and New York City.

Councillor Ntuli emphasised the transformative potential of these collaborations. "Durban offers a unique opportunity

for investors looking to tap into African markets. By strengthening our ties with New York businesses, we can create a powerful synergy

INNER CITY BUILDING PROJECT TO COMMENCE

THE MULTI-MILLION-rand Inner City Building project will soon turn the Esplanade Government Building into a self-sustaining structure. This was revealed by KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Public Works and Infrastructure Martin Meyer. The sod turning ceremony was held at the building on 25 November and signified the work being done to restore dilapidated and hijacked buildings that have sat unused for many years. The Esplanade Government Building, once revamped, will house government departments.

MEC Meyer said the department is moving to proactively ensure the ongoing maintenance of buildings. This will ensure that they don't suffer the same fate as the Esplanade Government Building. "We are committed to cutting back on leases paid

by government departments to curb employees working in hired office spaces. We will own and maintain the building so that we can divert those costly rentals to other areas of priority," he added.

MEC Meyer said once the building is completed, it will boast environmentally friendly interventions where the lifts regenerate energy back into the building. It will also have PV panels on the roof and will harvest rainwater.

Chief Executive Officer of Enza Construction Clinton Crowie said the project will start next year and be completed in 2027. The design development period will start at the beginning of 2025 and last for between six to seven months.

EThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni said they are pleased to see the fruits of the memorandum



Chairperson of the Trading Services Committee Councillor Mdu Nkosi, CEO of Enza Construction Clinton Crowie, MEC of Public Works and Infrastructure Martin Meyer, and eThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni at the sod turning ceremony of the Esplanade Government Building.

of understanding signed between the City and the national and provincial Departments of Public Works.

She said the City is working with stakeholders to ensure problem buildings are turned around and utilised.



ENTRIES NOW OPEN FOR THE 4TH DURBAN TOURISM BUSINESS AWARDS

THE TOURISM and hospitality sectors are invited to participate in the 4th annual Durban Tourism Business Awards, which recognise business excellence, resilience, and innovation within the industry. Entries opened on 22 November, and will close on 23 February 2025.

To start the entry process, all tourism businesses within eThekweni Municipality can use this link: <https://durbantourismawards.com>.

Participants have the opportunity to win development prizes to help elevate their businesses. All category winners will receive up to R50 000 in cash, while winners of the exceptional achievement category will be awarded R100 000 to attend an international

tourism exhibition or study tour. The first runner-up will receive R35 000, and the second runner-up will receive R25 000.

AWARD CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

1. Service Excellence Category, featuring the following subcategories:
 - Accommodations Awards: Hotels and non-hotels
 - MESE Awards: Meetings, exhibitions, and special events venues
 - Visitor Experiences Awards: Scenic beauty, roots and culture, adventure activities, wildlife, lifestyle, beach experiences, and luxury
 - Tourist Guides Awards: Nature guides, adventure guides, and culture guides
2. Sustainable Development Category
3. Entrepreneurship Category
4. Upcoming Filmmakers Category
5. Exceptional Achievement Category featuring the following subcategories:
 - Investment
 - Hospitality
 - Rural and Township Investment Development
 - Creative Industries

- Tour Operators Awards: Emerging and established tour operators
- Rickshaw Pullers
- Crafters
- Event Organisers and Promoters

- Contributions by Persons with Disabilities in the sector.

To maintain integrity of the awards, there will be a thorough tabulation and audit of the businesses. This will be followed by a public voting phase.

The final stage involves an independent panel of judges visiting nominated businesses to assess them. Community tourism organisations, industry stakeholders, and the public are encouraged to identify and motivate tourism businesses in their areas to enter the awards.

For more information, please email: info@durbantourismawards.com or call 031 322 4164. You can also visit www.durbantourismawards.com

EMPOWERING EMERGING BUSINESSES AT 2024 GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK



A participant pitches his business idea to a panel of judges during the Global Entrepreneurship Week Pitching Den.

EMPOWERING the future of business remains key for eThekweni Municipality. This was evident during the 2024 Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) which sparked innovation, growth, and collaboration to uplift local emerging entrepreneurs.

Held from 18 to 24 November, eThekweni Municipality hosted a series of activities to celebrate GEW, aimed at empowering local businesses and fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem. The key event was the Pitching Den on 19 November at the Durban

Country Club, held in collaboration with the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority and KZN Oils. The Pitching Den saw 30 entrants competing, with 20 selected to participate in the Enterprise and Supplier Development programme. This programme offers 12 months of training, mentorship, and a trade agreement through the KZN Oils value chain, starting in January 2025.

“This initiative supports small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) through

innovation and procurement opportunities,” said Khungeka Gojo, SMME Business Support Programme Manager at the Municipality’s Business Support, Tourism, Markets and Agri-Business Unit.

“It’s a unique partnership between the City and private sector to help small-business owners add value and strengthen the economy.” Given the City’s high unemployment rate and economic challenges, supporting emerging entrepreneurs and SMMEs is crucial. These entities have the potential to drive growth, create jobs, and promote innovation, but face significant barriers, including limited access to finance, poor infrastructure, and restrictive regulations. Therefore, eThekweni Municipality, along with leading private firms, aim to ease these barriers and provide essential training and mentorship.

Lungile Mbuyazi, Business Development Coordinator at DCCI said: “By working

together, we can create an environment that fosters SMME growth, driving economic growth and a more prosperous City. After 30 years of democracy, supporting SMMEs has become an existential imperative.”

Another significant initiative was the Youth Co-operative workshop held on 22 November at the Durban Botanic Gardens. This event aimed to empower youth-owned cooperatives by offering compliance support, training, and market opportunities.

Additional GEW highlights included perfume-making training at the Hammarsdale Sizakala Centre, an access-to-finance workshop in Welbedacht, an e-commerce marketing workshop for Crafters at the iTrump Hall, health and safety training for contractors in the Sibaya Precinct, and an enterprise development workshop hosted by the Small Enterprise Development Agency and Small Enterprise Finance Agency.



ETHEKWINI READY TO HOST THE 2024 SALGA GAMES

AS the reigning champions of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Games, eThekweni Municipality will put its best foot forward as the host city of the much-anticipated event.

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba announced the City's readiness to host the 2024 SALGA Games during an event at the Oceans Mall in uMhlanga on 22 November.

Mayor Xaba said: "The City is going all out to ensure we host a successful SALGA Games. As back-to-back winners of the tournament, Team eThekweni will go out guns blazing and do their best."

He said the tourism sector will receive a much-needed boost through the hosting of the Games, as will the temporary jobs created.

Mayor Xaba added that the City is proud to have produced two shining stars through the Games, the likes of Alwande Mngwengwe who now plies his trade with Sekhukhune United



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba, centre, announced the City's readiness to host the much-anticipated 2024 SALGA Games during an event at the Oceans Mall in uMhlanga.

and Ronnel Donnelly of the Western Cape United Women's Team.

"R40 million has been invested to upgrade and maintain our beaches and sporting facilities. We are only getting stronger as we work towards being an events and sporting capital," said Mayor Xaba.

This year's Games promises

to be nothing short of spectacular. Ten district municipalities, together with eThekweni Municipality, will battle it out across 13 sporting codes from 5 to 8 December.

Singing the chorus of support for the City was KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Sports, Arts and Culture Mtomuhle Khawula. He said the collaborative effort from

all stakeholders should be applauded and continues to show unity across the province.

"Thank you to eThekweni for hosting us. Various sectors will benefit from these Games – and we promise to put our best foot forward. Youth development continues to take centre stage," said MEC Khawula.

SURVEY TO ASSIST THE CITY DEAL WITH FLOODS



Municipal employees with a team from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency at a workshop held at the Disaster Management Executive Boardroom.

A DELEGATION from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a workshop with the Municipality to gather information to better understand floods in Durban. The workshop was held at the Disaster Management Executive Boardroom where

the team gathered information on the magnitude and mechanisms of flooding in order to mitigate the damage caused by frequent flooding in Durban.

The data collection survey will chiefly focus on the April 2022 floods that left a trail of destruction, destroying

infrastructure including factories and residential homes. The visit from JICA is primarily focused on assessing the impact of the 2022 flood disaster on the Municipality. The delegation will be evaluating the extent of the damage, assess the current state of readiness in case of a similar disaster, and offer support for recovery, rehabilitation, and rebuilding efforts. Additionally, they will explore potential interventions for the future. The data collection process will be concluded in February 2025.

Addressing representatives from various Municipal units, Head of the International Governance and Relations Unit Eric Apelgren said getting assistance from countries that

have previously experienced floods and water surges will be beneficial for the future. "This collaborative effort aims to promote disaster resilience and sustainable development in the region," said Apelgren.

JICA Project Manager Takeshi Watanabe said once the survey has been finalised, they will analyse flood disaster risks and identify existing critical infrastructure to be protected as well as to improve protection of infrastructure from disasters. "We will share mechanisms that will assist the City to deal with water surges, climate change, and flood control," said Watanabe.

He said they will propose a cooperation plan that could be phased over the medium to long-term.

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