

TOP 2024 MATRIC LEARNERS HONOURED AT MAYORAL AWARDS

ETHEKWINI Municipality honoured the top achievers of the Matric Class of 2024 during an event at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on 24 January.

Speaking during the Mayoral Matric Excellence Awards, eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba encouraged learners to focus on their studies as they head to different institutions of higher learning. "Today is a very special occasion as we celebrate the exceptional achievements of the eThekweni Matric Class of 2024. We are recognising learners and schools for their hard work in the 2024 National Senior Certificate examinations."

KwaZulu-Natal achieved a 89.5% pass rate, which is an increase from 86.4% achieved in 2023. The two education districts in eThekweni that performed well were the uMlazi District achieving 89.8% and the Pinetown District recording 89.4%.

Mayor Xaba said eThekweni Municipality continues to fulfil its commitment to invest in youth and education by offering financial assistance to academically deserving learners, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"This programme is important because it enables talented learners to further their studies at higher education public institutions. We are delighted that the eThekweni Matric Awards ceremony has been a calendar event for more than two decades. During this celebration, we recognise



eThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba honoured the top achievers of the Matric Class of 2024 at the Mayoral Matric Excellence Awards. He was joined by City leadership including eThekweni Deputy Mayor Councillor Zandile Myeni, Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Committee Councillor Thembo Ntuli and Chairperson of the Governance and Human Resources Committee Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala.

schools that obtained a 100% matric pass rate, the most improved schools, as well as the top 10 learners from eThekweni. We also honour the top 10 learners from disadvantaged schools which are categorised by the Department of Education as schools under the Quantile 1 to 3 ranking system," he said.

"In addition, 10 bursaries will be awarded to learners from disadvantaged schools. These bursaries are for full-time studies at public education institutions and cover tuition fees, accommodation, study material as well as meal allowances for the duration of the programme provided

that the student continues to perform well."

Mayor Xaba said in the past three financial years, the City has invested about R28 million towards the bursary programme. A total budget of R12 million has been set aside to assist with bursaries in this current financial year. This budget includes cost for the existing bursary beneficiaries.

He said a success story was previous beneficiary Ntuthuko Marime, 28, from Clermont who matriculated in 2014 at Wyebank Secondary School. In 2015, he received a bursary from the City to further his studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Marime

graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

He is employed as a qualified Civil Engineer in the City's Coastal, Stormwater and Catchment Engineering Department.

Mayor Xaba said the Municipality also offers the Student Relief Fund which assists learners from disadvantaged backgrounds who cannot afford to register at tertiary institutions.

This financial assistance is strictly for registration purposes.

A total of R1.2 million has been set aside to assist with registration fees for the 2025 academic year.

ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY IS NOT BANKRUPT AND SERVICES CONTINUE TO BE RENDERED



ETHEKWINI Municipality reassures residents that the City remains in good financial standing despite a constrained national fiscal environment. Services in the City continue to be rendered in line with the approved budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

The City has noted the widespread circulation of fake news through WhatsApp messages and other media platforms alleging that various departments in the Municipality are unable to

deliver services due to a “bleak financial situation.” The departments mentioned include Water and Sanitation, Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries, Electricity as well as Cleansing and Solid Waste. EThekwini City Manager Musa Mbhele has dismissed the non-factual allegations which can only be described as a smear campaign aimed at tarnishing the image of the Municipality.

“It should be highlighted that the Municipality is currently conducting a mid-

term performance review in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and it has been noted that some expenditure items are higher than normal due to various reasons including adverse weather conditions which required more resources. For instance, the heatwave affected a number of our electricity substations and the persistent heavy rain impacted the City’s water infrastructure,” he said.

“The mid-term review will inform the adjustment budget that is being finalised for the Council meeting in February. The need for an adjustment budget is normal, taking into account our complex operations and is provided for in the MFMA. This was also done in the previous financial year,” Mbhele further explained.

With regard to allegations of plumbers not being dispatched to attend to water leaks, this is again not true. The Water Network Branch responsible for this

function continues to deploy both internal and contracted plumbers to attend to burst pipes and leak orders for the City to save water.

Grass cutting services and maintenance of verges is also continuing in line with the annual grass cutting cycle.

Mbhele added that the City has significantly improved planning during its Integrated Development Process and has aligned its business processes to ensure improved accuracy and realistic budgets to reduce reliance on virements and adjustment budgets.

“It is therefore important that the public is not misled into believing that the Municipality is bankrupt. Importantly, where the Municipality is not living up to its service delivery standards, we call on the public to report these cases to the City Integrity and Investigations Unit by calling 0800 20 20 20 or email ombuds@durban.gov.za,” concluded Mbhele.

CUSTOMERS CAN EXPECT A SIMPLIFIED BILL

THE City’s Revenue Management Unit has made some changes to the face of the standard Municipal bill to ensure the document is simplified and reader friendly.

Head of the Revenue Management Unit Lihle Ndzulu said the change was necessary and will assist customers.

“After taking into consideration customers difficulties understanding their monthly charges, the Municipality has worked to improve its statements.”

The consolidated total will remain as the opening balance; however, the major change is that all charges are listed on page 1. Property rates, water, electricity,

OLD BILL

Reference	Details	Amount (R)
2024/11/15-NE	Balance brought forward	5,752.06
	Payment - Bank pay (30Day 101)	52,278.00
	Sub-total	0.00
	Current month's charges (from detailed invoices)	6,892.97
	VAT	799.04
	Total current month's charges	7,692.01
	Total	7,692.01

Current month's charges payable by 2024/12/13

Please register for revenue notice statements via e-mail: help@revenue.durban.gov.za

The Municipality is committed to providing assistance with the interpretation of Revenue Information Act, 4 of 2013. You have the right to request access, correction, deletion or restriction of your personal information. Please 1234

<https://www.durban.gov.za/your-representation-reliance-claim> for more information.

NEW BILL

Reference	Details	Amount (R)
	Balance brought forward	651,173.07Cr
	Sub-total	651,173.07Cr
CA07620240000118	Credit Authority Agreement	14,980.00
	Current month's charges	86,165.01
	Water and Sanitation	92,120.00
	Water, Cleansing & Solid Waste Unit	2,045.01
	Total	123,250.02
	Total	729,444.59Cr

To receive your Metro Bill electronically, please use either of the following platforms:

Contract Number	Agreement	Revised	Start/Installments	Current	Amount Owning	Months Pending
CA07620240000118		539,387.89	14,980.00	14,980.00	664,467.89	1 months

MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT DETAILS

MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

CONSOLIDATED TOTAL AND ALL ACCOUNT CHARGES

MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

AMOUNT OWING

sewerage, refuse and others, appears on the first page so the customer does not have to flip through pages 2 and 3 to check the total charge. Pages 2 and 3 will still

provide the customer with a detailed analysis for each service charge. With the Debt Relief Programme concluding in December 2024, customers

that have made payment arrangements will be reminded of this on the first page as well. It will reflect as “Credit Authority Agreement” and will stipulate the instalment as well.

Customers are to note that if they have registered for the Debt Relief Programme, or made a payment arrangement, the full required instalment must be paid to prevent the account falling back into arrears.

Account holders are also encouraged to make sure they register on the City’s e-Services platform so they may receive their bills online. They can also make payment directly from the portal.



BUSTLING FESTIVE SEASON FOR CITY

ETHEKWINI Municipality proudly announced the findings of a comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment on the impact of the festive season on the City.

The in-depth report, conducted by BDO South Africa, highlighted the significant economic benefits generated during the 2024/25 festive season, spanning from 1 December 2024 to 12 January 2025. The findings reaffirm Durban's position as a premier holiday destination, delivering substantial economic advantages to the local community.

The 2024/25 festive season resulted in a staggering direct spend of R1.95 billion within eThekweni Municipality, showcasing a robust demand from both domestic and international visitors. The total economic contribution to the local economy was an impressive R4.83 billion, illustrating the multiplier effect of the tourism sector.

The festive influx also contributed about R360 million in revenue to the government, further highlighting the important role tourism plays in local and national economies.

This wave of tourism created or sustained approximately 8 716 jobs, offering vital

employment opportunities for residents in various sectors, from hospitality and retail to transportation and entertainment. The job creation underscores tourism's role as a crucial pillar of the local economy, providing livelihoods and supporting families.

The festive season drew a total of 875 289 visitors to Durban, comprised of 447 832 domestic overnight visitors, 33 577 foreign overnight visitors, and 393 880-day visitors. A survey of visitors revealed that 79% perceive Durban as a prime tourist destination.

Visitors engaged in various activities, with the top attractions being the City's breathtaking beaches (73%), local eateries (69%), and shopping experiences (64%). Notably, 54% of visitors were drawn to uShaka Marine World, highlighting the City's diverse offerings that cater to all ages and interests.

The economic impact assessment further acknowledged the significant contributions of major events held throughout the City. Notably, events such as Beach Paradise, Fact DBN Rocks, Anywhere In Your City, and the uMgababa New's Year Picnic, played a substantial role in attracting thousands



EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba conducted several walkabouts along the beachfront and key tourist attractions during the festive season. Looking head, Durban Tourism will be implementing a series of impactful initiatives designed to accelerate tourism growth.

of attendees and contributed in driving the local economy during the 2024/25 festive season. The festive season saw an average overall occupancy rate of 69%, with hotels reaching 72%, a notable increase from the previous year's 70%. Peak occupancy rates reached 91% during the Christmas long weekend, illustrating the high demand and the City's appeal as a festive getaway.

Looking ahead, Durban's tourism sector continues to demonstrate resilience and growth, with significant

opportunities for future development. The insights from this report will guide the City's strategic initiatives to enhance visitor experiences and maximize economic benefits for communities.

EThekweni Mayor Councillor Cyril Xaba said the City remains fully committed to working with stakeholders to ensure that the tourism sector continues to grow.

For more information visit www.visitdurban.travel or follow Durban Tourism on social media platforms @DBNTourism.

CITY GEARS UP TO HOST DP WORLD TOUR INVESTEC SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

THE DP World Tour Investec South African Open Golf and Business Event Series is one of only five DP World Tour-sanctioned golf tournaments – and it's coming to Durban! It is the second oldest National Open in the world after the Open Championship and it will feature 156 professional golfers over four days from 27 February to 2 March at the Durban Country Club. The

Executive Committee recently approved the sponsorship of the highly anticipated golf tournament. The business sector has enthusiastically welcomed the hosting of the event and has contributed over R4 million to the improvement and readiness of the Durban Country Club to host this highly anticipated event. The total sponsorship rights package is R5 million,

which will secure sustained Durban coverage over a five-month period and reach more than 1.25 billion viewers.

This event is intended to significantly boost the City's economy and create jobs. According to Golf RSA, a combined entity comprising of the South African Golf Association and the Women's Golf South Africa Association, the golf sector provides R49

billion to the South African economy, or around 4% of the GDP, employing over 40 000 people each year. According to the tabled report, the National Department of Tourism has been extensively consulted by the Presidential eThekweni Workstream 4 on Tourism and is committed to supporting activities in collaboration with the City and business leaders.



INCUBATOR ENSURES BUSINESS SUCCESS THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

THE Furniture Technology Centre Trust (Furntech) offers business incubation and skills development opportunities in the furniture industry in KwaMashu. They offer support to new, existing and start-up businesses by providing incubation facilities and accredited skills training for aspiring entrepreneurs with a passion for woodwork and furniture manufacturing.

The objective is to develop new, small businesses and to assist existing small business in the furniture and wood products sector. The programme provides a protected and mentored environment to help a new business get established.

The small businesses will have access to a workshop space, meeting rooms, machinery and other facilities that will make business easy for them.

The Furniture Incubator has a drastic impact on the stimulation and development of manufacturing businesses and community access to locally produced and custom-made furniture in the Phoenix, Inanda, Ntuzuma, and KwaMashu (PINK) areas by providing residents with locally made furniture that small businesses produce from the hub.

The success of the Furntech Model is based on the combination of business technology incubation and skills development as significant drivers of international competitiveness and organisational development. The incubation programme has had numerous successes and serves as a catalyst for jobs in Durban.

SMMEs interested in joining the incubator can email adminkwa@furntech.or.za or call 031 579 3883



BUSINESS INCUBATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY

The KwaMashu Furniture Incubator, managed by Furniture Technology Centre Trust (Furntech), offers support to new, existing, and start-up businesses by providing incubation facilities and accredited skills training for aspiring entrepreneurs with a passion for woodworking and furniture manufacturing.

The KwaMashu Furniture Incubator, with support from eThekweni Municipality, will be offering the following programmes in the furniture manufacturing sector to selected individuals.

BUSINESS INCUBATION

- Residential incubation: Furniture manufacturing; or
- Virtual incubation: Furniture manufacturing

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Furniture Making NQF Level 2: Wood Machining; or
- Furniture Making NQF Level 2: Upholstery

Interested individuals are invited to attend a compulsory INFORMATION SESSION to be held as follows:

- Furntech KwaMashu, No. 30, 109236 Street (Ngi Shabalala Circle), KwaMashu E**
- Tuesday, 4 February 2025**
- 9am – Latecomers will not be permitted to enter the venue.**

The presentation will be in English and is directed to people who are interested in pursuing a career in furniture manufacturing with the aim of starting their own furniture manufacturing business.

Minimum qualifying criteria

- Minimum Grade 10 (or equivalent) with maths/maths literacy
- South African citizen
- Be willing to work in the woodworking industry
- Positive attitude and potential to be developed

For more information regarding this invitation please contact 031 579 3883 or email: adminkwa@furntech.org.za

Please RSVP your attendance by no later than Monday, 3 February 2025

NOTE: THIS INVITATION DOES NOT SERVE AS A JOB OFFER.

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS FOR SELF-SUSTAINING BUSINESS ACCELERATOR MODELS



Small, medium, and micro enterprises from various industries attended the Business Pitching Den.

THE City's Economic Development Unit (EDU) calls for proposals from various sectors who seek innovative and capable entities/coalitions, to

partner with eThekweni Municipality's economic development programmes and planning. This aims to design and implement a global busi-

ness services (GBS) sector development programme.

This call seeks to identify qualified entities capable of designing and implementing an annual, self-sustaining business accelerator programme that will inspire and attract high-potential start-ups, small, medium, and micro enterprises, and high growth businesses in key economic sectors within eThekweni and rural areas.

The EDU's Industry Development Department's mandate is to stimulate the local economy by playing a

facilitative role to encourage economic growth and job creation. It also works to create an enabling business environment for industries and businesses to thrive.

The Unit seeks to partner with industry specific business organisations to assist in growing the local economy.

For more information interested parties can click on the following links for the various programmes.

<https://bit.ly/3DwXcX>
<https://bit.ly/3Dwj1qf>
<https://bit.ly/3P9CRKn>
<https://bit.ly/3PaNOeN>

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

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