

NEWSLETTER



Growth, Sustainability, and Community Transformation

The Ezulwini Municipality has continued to make progress in infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, public health, and community empowerment. From the implementation of the Goje Township Roads project and improved waste management initiatives to public health campaigns, youth empowerment programmes, and strengthened disaster preparedness systems, these initiatives continue to improve the quality of life for residents across the Municipality.

Enjoy the newsletter!

Advancing Community Well-Being Across Ezulwini

In preparation for school-based wellness programmes, the Municipality collaborated closely with Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs), schools, and various stakeholders to create safer and more supportive learning environments for children and young people. Strategic partnerships were also strengthened with institutions such as the School of Theology and Kwakha Indvodza to advance youth development initiatives and community-based interventions.

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Building Capacity, Strengthening Wellness, and Investing in People

Ezulwini Municipality continues to prioritize institutional growth, employee wellness, and professional development as part of its commitment to delivering quality services to the community. During the quarter, the Municipality successfully strengthened its technical leadership with the appointment of a new Assistant Town Engineer.

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Advancing Community Well-Being Across Ezulwini



As part of ongoing efforts to improve public health outcomes, the Municipality worked alongside the National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NERCHA) to strengthen data systems supporting HIV prevention programmes. Community awareness remained a key priority, with educational sessions conducted in three schools focusing on critical issues affecting learners, including gender-based violence (GBV), bullying and peer pressure, hygiene, and positive behaviour. Through these engagements, bullying emerged as one of the most pressing challenges affecting learners, highlighting the need for continued collaboration between schools, parents, and communities.

The Municipality also took practical steps to support the dignity and educational participation of young girls through the donation of sanitary pads, helping to reduce barriers to school attendance. Community outreach programmes continued to make a significant impact, with more than 55 community members reached through Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and HIV awareness campaigns. The department distributed 37,948 condoms, 1,500 lubricants, and various educational materials aimed at promoting safer and healthier lifestyles. Further health promotion activities included cancer awareness sessions that emphasized

the importance of early detection and prevention, as well as mental health awareness engagements that provided psychosocial support and referral services to community members in need. In partnership with the Eswatini National Blood Transfusion Service, the Municipality also hosted a successful blood donation drive, encouraging residents to contribute towards saving lives.

Internally, the Municipality conducted an employee education session on Social Welfare services, increasing awareness of available grants and support programmes, including educational assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs). The session also encouraged direct staff engagement and consultations on social welfare matters.

In the spirit of compassion and inclusion, the Municipality participated in a Christmas celebration for vulnerable children, bringing joy and a sense of belonging to young members of the community during the festive season. Support to Neighbourhood Care Points also continued, including the provision of transport assistance to ensure that children and staff could safely access essential services.

The quarter concluded with the hosting of a Youth Entrepreneurship Feedback Forum, where young entrepreneurs were given a platform to share their experiences, opportunities, and challenges.

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Building Capacity, Strengthening Wellness, and Investing in People

Mr. Matse joins the Municipality from ZMCK and brings valuable expertise and experience to the Engineering Department. His appointment marks an important step in reinforcing the Municipality's ongoing infrastructure development and service delivery objectives. Council warmly welcomes Mr. Matse and looks forward to the leadership and innovation he will contribute to the organization.

Recognizing that employee well-being is essential to a productive and motivated workforce, the Municipality also participated in the annual Buganu Festival held in February 2026 as part of its Employee Wellness Initiative. The programme sought to promote holistic wellness by encouraging social interaction, emotional well-being, and cultural appreciation among staff members. Participation in the festival provided employees with an opportunity to celebrate

local culture and heritage while strengthening interpersonal relationships beyond the workplace. These engagements continue to promote teamwork, collaboration, and a stronger sense of unity within the institution.

The Municipality further demonstrated its commitment to staff development and excellence in service delivery through ongoing training initiatives. There was a training on hygiene practices that focused on safe food and beverage handling, prevention of illness, maintaining professional workplace standards, and improving operational efficiency.

Through strategic recruitment, employee wellness programmes, and skills development initiatives, the Municipality continues to build a capable, motivated, and service-oriented workforce dedicated to meeting the evolving needs of the community.

Advancing Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development remains a key priority for Ezulwini Municipality as the Council continues to invest in projects aimed at improving accessibility, enhancing public services, and supporting sustainable urban growth.

During the fourth quarter, the Municipality reached an important milestone with the implementation phase of the Upgrading of Goje Township Roads project. The contract for the project was officially awarded to Heathway Construction and signed on 29 January 2026, followed by a formal site handover on 6 February 2026. The project is expected to be completed within five calendar months, with completion anticipated by 6 August 2026.

Preparatory work has already commenced on site, including crack surveys of properties adjacent to the project area to assess existing structural conditions before construction

activities intensify. The contractor is currently undertaking key preliminary activities such as setting out the road alignment and clearing the site, including the establishment of the site office area.

The upgrading of Goje Township Roads directly supports the Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Strategic Objective No. 9, which seeks to achieve 80% asphalt-finished roads within Ezulwini by the year 2029. The project forms part of broader efforts to modernize infrastructure, improve mobility, and create a more accessible urban environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.

In addition to major capital projects, the Municipality continued with routine maintenance of critical public infrastructure across various townships during the quarter.

Advancing Infrastructure Development (Continued)

These maintenance activities included high mast lighting maintenance, street lighting repairs, pothole patching on internal roads and the MR103 corridor, vegetation control along road reserves, and the cleaning of stormwater drainage systems in various areas, including the MR103 Road.

These interventions are essential in ensuring safer roads, improved visibility, and effective stormwater management across the Municipality.

The quarter also saw continued progress on major private sector developments within Ezulwini. Construction of the Medisun Hospital project, valued at approximately E17.2 million, remains ongoing and has now reached 70% completion. The development is expected to contribute significantly to healthcare infrastructure and economic activity within the town once completed.

Despite the progress recorded, the Municipality continues to face several infrastructure-related challenges. Among the most pressing is the deteriorating condition of

the MR103 Road traversing Ezulwini, which requires major rehabilitation works, including upgrades to drainage systems and pavement layers. The Municipality also continues to encounter challenges with gravel roads located on private properties but heavily used by the public, including Umlandvo Street, Twiggs Garden Road, Tivakashi Street, and Dr Steven's Road. These ownership complexities make upgrading and maintenance efforts more difficult.

Another priority challenge remains the implementation of a safer intersection along the MR103 Road near the Ngonini Road access point.

Future plans include the adoption of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to modernize public service delivery, including digital building application systems and the expansion of public Wi-Fi hotspots. In addition, the Municipality plans to implement the Drainage Master Plan to strengthen stormwater management and support long-term urban resilience.



Environmental Sustainability, and Public Health

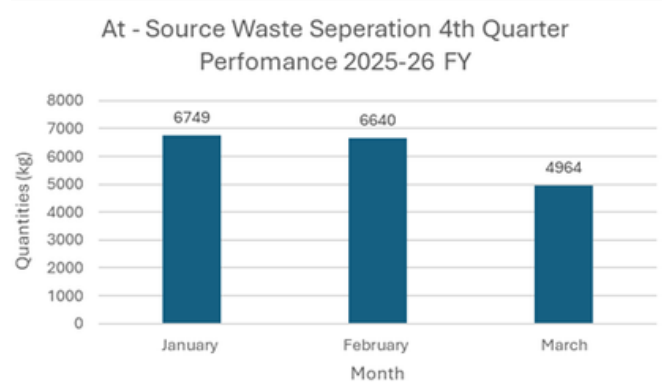
The Ezulwini Municipality continued to strengthen its commitment to environmental sustainability, public health protection, and disaster preparedness through a range of impactful programmes and strategic collaborations.

Strengthening Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability

The Municipality continued to make notable progress in environmental management, particularly in the area of waste management and recycling. During the quarter, Council collected a total of 429,831 kilograms of waste from both commercial and residential establishments across the town. Of this amount, 61,848 kilograms consisted of recyclable waste, achieving a waste diversion rate of 14% and reducing the amount of waste disposed at landfill sites.

The At-Source Waste Separation Programme also remained a key environmental initiative during the reporting period. A total of 18,355 kilograms of recyclable waste was collected through the programme. However, the Municipality observed a decline in recycling performance during the final month of the quarter, with the diversion rate dropping to 9%. This trend highlighted the growing need for stronger waste segregation practices, increased stakeholder awareness, and enhanced recycling campaigns to improve recovery rates and promote a more sustainable waste management culture within the community.

As part of efforts to strengthen regional collaboration and share best practices, the Municipality successfully hosted a two-day benchmarking engagement with Municipal Council of Mbabane focused on the At-Source Waste Separation Programme. The engagement included detailed presentations on programme implementation, monitoring systems, operational challenges, and future



Volumes of waste recyclables collected during the quarter

expansion plans, followed by practical site visits showcasing collection operations, secondary sorting processes, and community engagement activities.

The benchmarking exercise further positioned Ezulwini as a leader in sustainable waste management while creating opportunities for continued inter-municipal knowledge sharing and programme replication.

The Municipality also continued environmental monitoring of major construction projects to ensure compliance with the Environmental Management Act of 2002. Projects monitored during the quarter included the Goje Township Road Upgrade, the Central Bank of Eswatini development project, and the Medisun Clinic project.



Loading recyclables from one of the gated townships

Promoting Public Health and Food Safety

The Public Health section remained actively engaged in safeguarding community health through inspections, training, and regulatory enforcement. During the quarter, Council conducted more than 11 routine inspections of food establishments within the town and issued seven health clearance certificates. These inspections resulted in the seizure and condemnation of 4,440 kilograms of expired and damaged food products, reinforcing the Municipality's commitment to food safety and consumer protection.

Capacity building also remained a priority within the department. In February 2026, the Public Health Officer participated in an intensive multi-sectoral meat-grading training programme held at Ermelo Abattoir in South Africa. The programme enhanced expertise in carcass evaluation, classification, and standardization for cattle, sheep, and pigs, supporting Eswatini's broader efforts to strengthen the livestock value chain and align meat grading systems with international standards.

The practical training involved inspection exercises covering 379 cattle, 324 sheep, and 94 pigs under the guidance of experienced facilitators. Skills acquired during the training will contribute to improving meat inspection processes, strengthening quality assurance systems, and enhancing national food safety standards.



Ermelo Training Team with Instructor Mr. Johan Maritz

Disaster Preparedness and Fire Safety Coordination

In the area of disaster management, the Municipality strengthened inter-agency collaboration on fire hydrant management and compliance. During the reporting period, the Municipality convened a stakeholder engagement involving Eswatini National Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and Eswatini Water Services Corporation to discuss proposals aimed at formalizing annual fire hydrant testing as a mandatory public safety measure.

The engagement focused on clarifying institutional responsibilities and strengthening coordination in the installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire hydrants across the Municipality. Key resolutions included the sharing of hydrant location data and mapping information, joint field verification exercises to assess the operational status of existing hydrants, and the identification of priority areas requiring additional installations.

Under the agreed framework, the Eswatini Water Services Corporation will oversee routine maintenance and repairs, while the Eswatini National Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services will manage functional testing and compliance certification. The establishment of shared reporting systems and periodic review engagements is expected to strengthen accountability and improve long-term management of fire protection infrastructure.

Progress on Municipal Bye-Laws



The Municipality also recorded significant progress in strengthening its regulatory framework. The Office received official communication from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development confirming approval of the submitted Municipal Bye-Laws by the Honourable Minister. The bye-laws have since been forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for further vetting and publication.

This milestone follows the Municipality's submission of the bye-laws in September 2025 and continued follow-up engagements with the Ministry.

Challenges and Future Outlook

Despite the progress achieved during the quarter, the Municipality continues to face challenges relating to the lack of municipal-owned land for the establishment of a final waste disposal facility and the broader implementation of waste minimization strategies.

The Municipality plans to expand the At-Source Waste Separation Programme to include

the reduction and management of organic waste, following findings from a recent waste survey indicating that organic waste accounts for approximately 38% of all waste generated within the town. This expansion forms part of the Municipality's broader vision of building a cleaner, healthier, and more environmentally sustainable Ezulwini for current and future generations.



Picture Gallery



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