



GEARING UP FOR THE BIG EASTER WEEKEND | P3

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DURBAN CBD UIP PROVIDES SUPPORT TO ICC OCEAN AFRICA CONFERENCE

The Durban CBD UIP, through its security and cleaning partners, Lion Security and Wahlanza Cleaning, provided support to the Ocean Innovation Africa conference hosted at the Durban International Convention Centre in March. The event, organised by Ocean Innovation Africa (OIA) and the eThekweni Municipality, brought together innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, policymakers and industry leaders from across the continent for discussions on the development and adoption of sustainable ocean solutions

DURBAN MUST RECLAIM ITS THRONE AS SA'S PLAYGROUND



**VASANTHA
ANGAMUTHU**

For decades, Durban was South Africa's playground with people descending on our city every holiday ... attracted by Durban's budget accommodation, low cost of living, variety of local food, great beaches and family culture.

That lustre was lost over the years. A tough economy, Covid, safety issues and lack of maintenance infrastructure saw those domestic tourist numbers dwindle.

Now there seems to be a turnaround after a successful December when visitors remarked on how good the city centre was looking - clean, safe and walkable.

Much of this can be attributed to the work of the Durban CBD UIP who have taken on the mammoth task of bringing the city centre back to life. And a year of concentrated focus on cleaning and security is paying dividends.

As Durban prepares for the Easter weekend, the UIP is getting ready to repeat their December success.

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MYDURBANCBD is a hyperlocal paper published by Durban resident Vasantha Angamuthu. Vasantha is a former CEO of iol.co.za and the African News Agency, former head of communications for the eThekweni Municipality, former Vice President at Hindustan Times Media Ltd and a journalist who covered South Africa's transition to democracy. She is a local businessperson with interests in media, hospitality, culture and education.

**OUR PARTNER
DURBANCBUIP**

CONTACT: admin@durbancbuiip.co.za

CHAIR: Gugu Ngobese

DURBAN CBD UIP VACANCIES

EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Durban CBD Urban Improvement Precinct Urban Improvement Precinct invites proposals from qualified and independent audit firms to conduct annual external audits.

Objective: To appoint an independent auditor to ensure compliance, transparency, and financial integrity

SCOPE OF WORK

1. Annual audit of financial statements

- Audit opinion in accordance with IFRS/IFRS for SMEs
- Review of internal controls
- Management letter with findings and recommendations
- Attendance at Board meetings

Minimum Requirements

- Registered Auditor (IRBA)
- Relevant audit qualifications
- 3-5 years' audit experience
- Experience with NPOs (advantageous)
- Proposal Requirements
- Company profile
- Proof of IRBA registration
- Audit methodology
- Fee structure
- References

Submission Details

Email: admin@durbancbuiip.co.za

Closing Date: 10 April 2026

ACCOUNTANT

The Durban CBD Urban Improvement Precinct invites suitably qualified service providers to submit proposals for accounting and bookkeeping services.

Objective: To appoint a Accountant/Bookkeeper to ensure accurate financial management, reporting, and compliance.

SCOPE OF WORK

1. Financial Administration:

- Maintain bookkeeping records
- Process transactions and reconciliations
- Manage accounts payable & receivable
- Attendance at Board and Annual General Meetings

2. Financial Reporting:

- Monthly management accounts
- Income and expenditure statements
- Budget tracking
- Audit Support:
- Prepare annual financial statements
- Liaise with auditors

Minimum Requirements

- Relevant qualification
- 3-5 years' experience
- Knowledge of SA compliance

Proposal Requirements

- CV / Company profile
- Qualifications
- Fee structure
- References

Submission Details

Email: admin@durbancbuiip.co.za

Closing Date: 10 April 2026

GENERAL EMPLOYEES

The Durban CBD UIP intends to establish a database of general employees on an "as and when" basis. The role is suited to community-minded employees who can move between field work and basic office support.

The three core functions are: Administrative support; Ambassador role; and Maintenance work

Minimum Requirements:

- Matric
- Computer literacy
- Proficiency in English and isiZulu
- Valid driver's licence
- Physically fit and able to undertake manual labour

Added advantages:

- Post-matric qualifications
- Experience in the use of machinery, tools and equipment

Applications must include:

- CV and copies of qualifications
- Copy of driver's licence
- Proof of claims made in the application

Submission Instructions

Applications must be emailed by 10 April 2026 to admin@durbancbuiip.co.za. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.



DURBAN CBD UIP PREPARES FOR SAFER, CLEANER EASTER HOLIDAY

The Durban CBD UIP's contracted security company and their cleaning partner are ready to repeat the Urban Improvement Precinct's December successes as the city readies for a bumper Easter season

As Durban prepares for an expected influx of over 1.3 million visitors this Easter, the Durban CBD UIP is gearing up to receive them with a wide-ranging cleaning and security plan with its appointed service providers.

Chairperson of the CBD UIP Gugu Ngobese said that the plan provides a "preventive overlay" of safety and sanitation from late March through mid-April 2026.

By deploying more personnel, the plan seeks to ensure that the city's commercial heart remains welcoming during the year's busiest travel window.

The UIP has planned a high-visibility security deployment featuring dedicated ambassadors during the peak Easter weekend. Unlike traditional policing, these unarmed ambassadors serve as the "eyes and ears" of the precinct, providing public reassurance and visitor assistance for shoppers and tourists.

Their role is specifically designed to manage the unique pressures of the holiday season, including

- Real-time monitoring of theft indicators and crowd management.
- Actively assisting commuters and vulnerable pedestrians to navigate the busy CBD.
- Maintaining constant radio contact with Metro Police and SAPS to ensure hard-crime response capacity is used only where necessary.

Recognising that "security gets the headlines, but cleanliness carries the customer experience," the plan focuses on eliminating the visual signs of urban neglect that can deter tourists.

The "Reset and Recover" strategy includes:

- Sweeping and bin management starting at 5:00 AM to ensure the city is "camera-ready" for early commuters and tourists.
- Night-shift teams using high-pressure washers to tackle paving stains and odors in high-traffic market edges.
- A dedicated greening team to prune, weed, and refresh planters, alongside crews

tasked with removing illegal posters and graffiti.

Ms Ngobese said: "Because municipal resources are often stretched thin during holidays, the CBD requires this "top-up" to protect its reputation as Durban's commercial engine room."

With direct tourism spending projected to exceed R2.5 billion, the stakes are high.

"If the core feels unmanaged, the damage is immediate - reputationally, economically, and operationally," Ms Ngobese said.

By aligning safety and cleaning interventions, the city aims to offer a seamless, high-quality experience that encourages visitors to return long after the Easter eggs are gone.

Within the CBD core, the UIP's focus on smart policing and coordinated cleaning over the December holiday proved decisive and visible.

Despite a record-breaking number of people visiting the city, especially on key public holidays, the period was marked by no major security incidents.

BACK TO BASICS STRATEGY PAYS OFF FOR CBD UIP

It's been a hard year for the interim board of the Durban CBD Urban Improvement Precinct. Co-opted into serving as leadership of the Special Rating Area after the previous Board collapsed, the dedicated team had to bring all their energy to a reset and revitalisation of the special rating area (SRA).

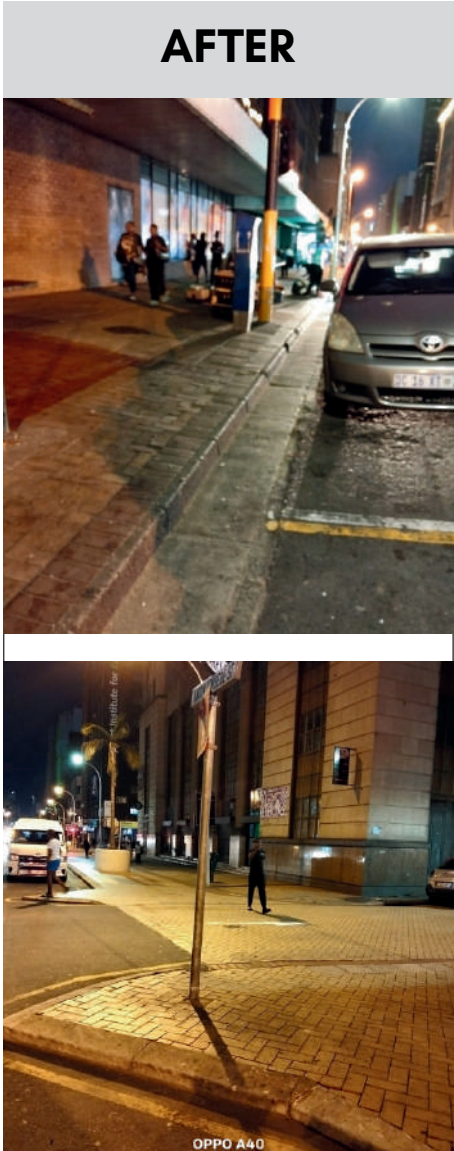
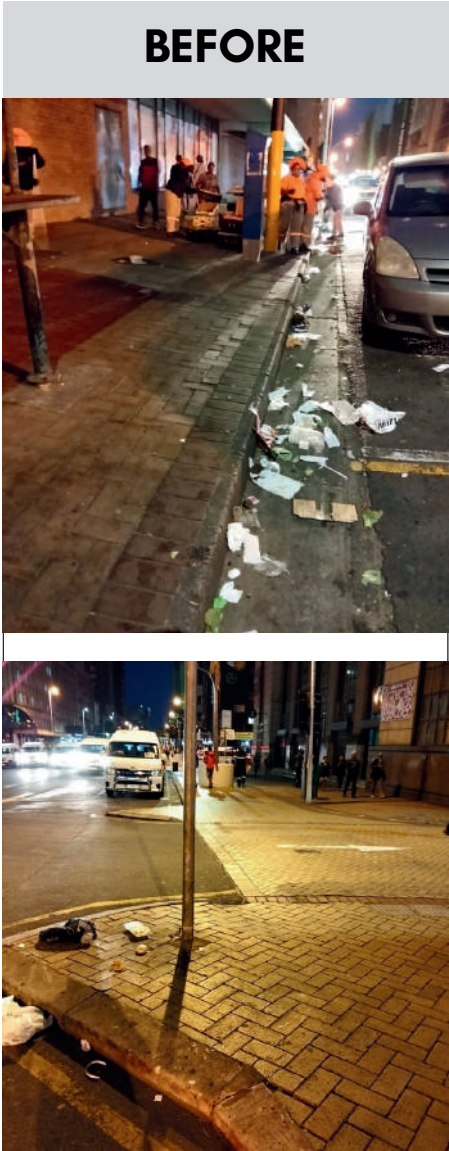
At the Annual General Meeting in March the board of directors showed that their efforts seem to be paying dividends. Chairperson Gugu Ngobese said there had been a massive governance reset.

The UIP, she said, successfully executed their 2025 Business Plan to align precinct-based management with municipal initiatives aimed at restoring confidence in the city centre.

Key issues tabled at the AGM were the absence of audited Annual Financial Statements, a lapsed SARS tax exemption, service delivery complaints and alleged financial irregularities from the previous year. Ms Ngobese said municipal payments had reportedly been withheld since January 2025 because of compliance failures which put pressure on cash flow.

In 2025, the Durban CBD UIP's key successes included the expansion of urban management coverage; and a dedicated multi-disciplinary team to tackle cleaning and maintenance in high-traffic zones. The expansion was supported deploying ambassadors to serve as critical deterrent to crime and as a resource for visitors.

In 2025, the UIP coordinated over 1,500 joint clean-up operations; saw the construction of a CCTV Command Centre to bolster its rapid response capabilities; and supported the Inner City Regeneration (ICR) program in conducting 375 enforcement operations.



AFS 2024/2025

FY2024/25 expense mix

Security

R3.7m | 40.6%

Operational management

R1.8m | 19.8%

Cleaning

R1.6m | 17.5%

Administration fees

R1.3m | 14.7%

Other

R666.4k | 7.4%

- Revenue improved strongly to R7.519m, but expenses accelerated to R9.027m.
- The income statement moved from a R677.7k profit in FY2023/24 to a R1.508m loss in FY2024/25.
- Cash receipts from customers were R7.872m versus cash paid to suppliers (UIP Co) of R12.020m.
- The result is a R4.149m operating cash outflow for the year.

Due to the financial year end being 28 February 2026: the AFS for 25/26 is in the process of being done

BUDGET 2026/2027

Planned cost mix

Security

R5.3m | 66.3%

Cleaning & Greening

R1.5m | 18.3%

Admin & Management

R924.0k | 11.6%

Office Rental & Utilities

R300.0k | 3.8%

- Budgeted income R8.080m
- Budgeted expenses R7.980m
- Security remains the operating engine room at 66.3% of total spend (R5.292m).
- Cleaning and greening is the second-largest spend block at R1.464m or 18.3%
- Admin and management plus office overheads add R1.224m combined.