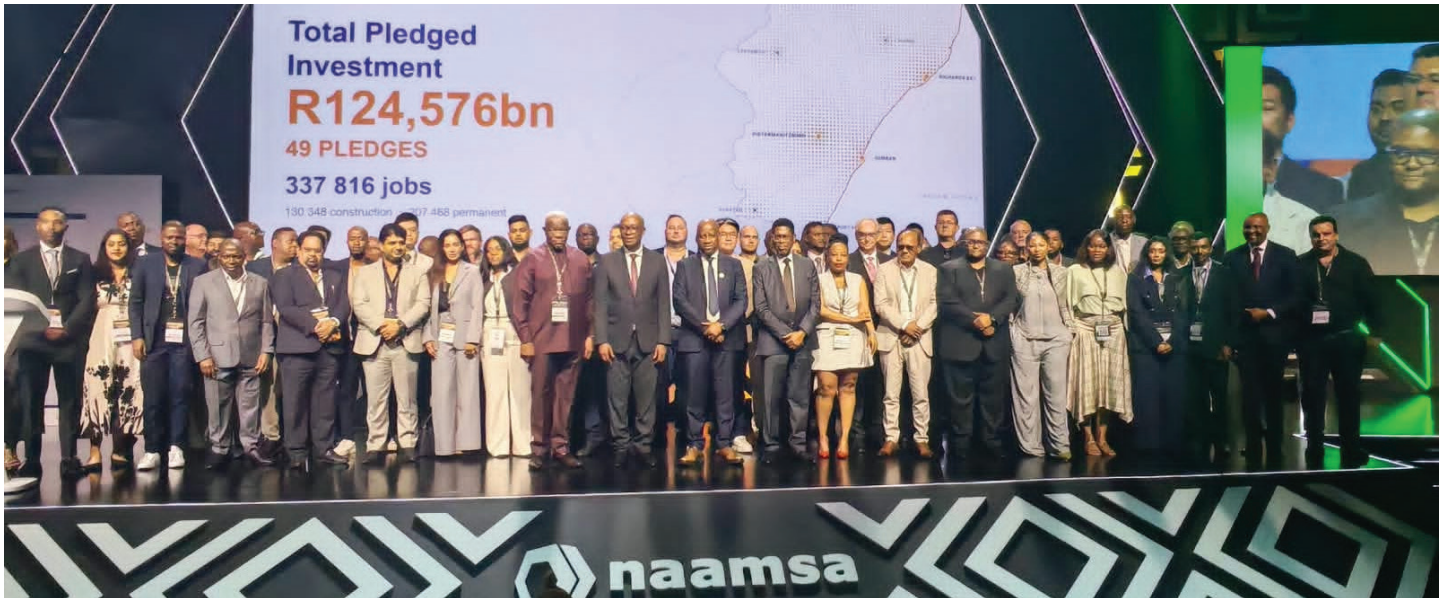
KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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EDTEA NEWS BULLETIN

KZN MEANS BUSINESS: 49 PROJECTS, R124.57 BILLION AND OVER 300,000 JOBS



Government and industry leaders with investors who made pledges during the KZN Investment Conference.

The KwaZulu-Natal Investment Conference 2026, held at the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) on 15 October 2026, secured historic investment commitments totalling R124.57 billion across 49 projects.

These investments are expected to create an estimated 130,348 jobs during the construction phase. Once completed and fully operational, the projects are projected to sustain approximately 207,468 permanent jobs, contributing significantly to economic growth and employment creation in the province.

The investment commitments reflect strong confidence in KwaZulu-Natal as a destination for investment, growth, and business opportunity.

Held under the theme, **"Driving Investment, Industrialisation and Localisation for a Globally Competitive KwaZulu-Natal,"** the conference placed investment, industrialisation, and localisation at the centre of discussions. Deliberations focused on strengthening local production, expanding industrial capacity, deepening automotive value chains, and attracting investment that supports sustainable job creation and long-term economic development.

The conference was attended by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr. Parks Tau; KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Hon. Thamsanqa Ntuli; eThekwini Mayor, Cllr. Cyril Xaba; and government leaders from across the country.

Presented as part of an integrated programme with SA Auto Week, which commenced on 13 October 2026, the conference provided a strategic platform for connecting investors with KwaZulu-Natal's investment opportunities, industrial capabilities, and priority development projects.

MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, highlighted the importance of integrating the KwaZulu-Natal Investment Conference 2026 with SA Auto Week.

"Combined, they form one powerful platform that places the automotive industry where it belongs: at the point where investment, industrialisation and localisation meet," he said.

Facilitated by Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN), an entity of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), the conference reinforced the province's commitment to transforming investment opportunities into meaningful partnerships, business growth, and inclusive economic development



L-R: Head of Ministry, Mr. Archie Khumalo; MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi; Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu; TIKZN Chief Executive, Mr. Sihle Ngcamu, and Chief Director, Mr. Brian Ntuli.

KZN HOSTS SUCCESSFUL SA AUTO WEEK 2026

KwaZulu-Natal successfully hosted South African Auto Week 2026 at the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) from 13 to 16 October 2026.

Industry leaders, automotive innovators, government representatives, financiers, and investors converged in the province to explore the future of mobility and unlock new opportunities for investment, industrialisation, and local manufacturing.

With KwaZulu-Natal in the driver's seat, the focus was on accelerating economic growth and strengthening the province's position as a leading automotive manufacturing and investment destination.

The MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, outlined the province's efforts to attract and retain automotive investment, strengthen localisation and regional supply chains, support SMMEs and emerging manufacturers, and broaden participation across the automotive value chain.

He also highlighted KwaZulu-Natal's initiatives to expand access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, building on the province's established automotive strengths while preparing for the next generation of mobility solutions.

Alongside MEC Zondi, EDTEA Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu, and Acting Deputy Director-General, Ms. Fikiswa Pupuma, participated in a number of high-level panel discussions. Key topics included skills development for careers in the automotive sector, provincial strategies to grow automotive investment, and the role of logistics reforms, infrastructure development, and public-private partnerships in strengthening KwaZulu-Natal's position as Southern Africa's premier trade and investment hub.

Further discussions explored opportunities to improve port efficiency, enhance global trade connectivity, attract strategic investment, and expand air cargo capacity to support high-value exports.

The event also featured a vibrant exhibition showcasing some of the latest New Energy Vehicles (NEVs). These vehicles arrived in Durban as part of the naamsa NEV Road Trip: Escaping the Noise 3.0, which travelled from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Gauteng.

As South Africa continues its transition towards cleaner mobility solutions, the road trip showcased hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and battery electric vehicles from nine automotive manufacturers. It also demonstrated the country's growing charging infrastructure capabilities and readiness to support the widespread adoption of new energy vehicles.

Overall, the week highlighted the importance of skills development, infrastructure investment, innovation, and strategic partnerships in unlocking investment, driving economic growth, and positioning KwaZulu-Natal as a competitive gateway for regional and international trade.

SA AUTO WEEK x KZN INVESTMENT CONFERENCE IN PICTURES



















Highlights from SA Auto Week 2026 and the KwaZulu-Natal Investment Conference, which brought together industry leaders, investors and key stakeholders to explore opportunities in the automotive sector and the broader provincial economy.

LOCAL BUSINESSES EQUIPPED TO GROW THROUGH MTHONJANENI MSME SUPPORT

Smiles and renewed optimism marked the MSME Business Support Handover where the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, in collaboration with the Mthonjaneni Local Municipality, handed over operational machinery and equipment to local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Beneficiaries welcomed the support, recognising the potential of the equipment to strengthen their businesses, improve productivity, and expand their operations. The intervention represented more than the provision of machinery and equipment; it was a strategic investment in local entrepreneurship, business sustainability, and job creation.

Emphasising the importance of inclusive economic development, MEC Zondi reiterated that economic opportunities and support must extend beyond major urban centres to reach local and smaller municipalities, where businesses play a critical role in driving economic growth and employment.

"Economic growth must not be concentrated in our major cities and large municipalities. It must also reach our local and smaller municipalities, where businesses need support to grow, create jobs, and contribute to the local economy," he said**.**

Through initiatives such as this, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) continues to advance enterprise development and empower MSMEs with the resources they need to grow, create employment opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to the economic prosperity of communities across KwaZulu-Natal.









MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, handed over operational machinery and equipment to local MSMEs in partnership with Mthonjaneni Local Municipality.



MEC ZONDI TAKES GOVERNMENT SERVICES CLOSER TO COMMUNITIES AT HARRY GWALA ROADSHOW



The MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, led the Integrated Service Delivery Roadshow at Kwa Hlengwa Sports Field in the Harry Gwala District.



MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, sharing joyful moments with beneficiaries during the handover of business support.

The MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, led the Integrated Service Delivery Roadshow at Kwa Hlengwa Sports Field in the Harry Gwala District on 24 October 2026.

The roadshow provided a valuable platform for community members, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders to engage directly with government representatives on matters relating to service delivery, available support programmes, and local development priorities.

By bringing government services and information closer to communities, the initiative improved access to public services and created opportunities for residents to raise concerns, seek guidance, and learn about programmes relevant to their needs.

The engagement also reinforced the importance of collaboration between government departments, municipalities, and communities in addressing local challenges. Through direct interaction, officials were able to share information on available support mechanisms and development initiatives while strengthening communication and accountability between government and the people it serves.

Through the Integrated Service Delivery Roadshow, the provincial government continues to bring services closer to communities, improve access to information and government programmes, and promote inclusive participation in the social and economic development of KwaZulu-Natal.

FROM UNDER A TREE TO A MANUFACTURING FACILITY: SSETHEMBE SERVICES OPENS NEW DOORS IN MSINGA

The SSethembe Services Manufacturing Facility, a project funded by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, was officially launched on 27 October 2026 in Esinyameni, Ward 09, under the Msinga Local Municipality.

The launch marked an important milestone in strengthening local manufacturing, supporting business growth, and expanding employment opportunities within the community.

Led by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, in partnership with the uMzinyathi District Development Agency, the initiative highlighted the importance of investing in local enterprises and unlocking their potential to drive economic growth and development in their communities.

Addressing attendees, MEC Zondi emphasised the importance of supporting businesses at grassroots level, enabling them to move beyond small-scale operations, increase production capacity, and make a greater contribution to job creation and the provincial economy.



MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, handed over operational machinery and equipment to local MSMEs in partnership with Mthonjaneni Local Municipality.

"Local businesses are the building blocks of a thriving economy. By supporting their growth and strengthen-

ing their capacity to manufacture, we create opportunities for job creation, enterprise development, and a better economic future for our communities," he said.

The launch demonstrated how targeted support for local enterprises can strengthen the manufacturing sector, broaden economic participation, and build a stronger foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth in KwaZulu-Natal.



SSethembe Services Manufacturing Facility is a symbol of EDTEA's commitment to revitalising township and rural economies across KZN.

BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS IN AMAJUBA DISTRICT

A vibrant atmosphere filled the Osizweni Sports Ground in Newcastle on 29 October 2026 as emerging entrepreneurs received operational resources through the MEC's Integrated Service Delivery Roadshow, led by the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi.

Owners of small businesses from across the Amajuba District joined community members at the event, which formed part of a series of engagements taking place throughout KwaZulu-Natal. The roadshow brought government services closer to communities while providing a platform to share information on business support programmes and economic development opportunities.

The beneficiaries had submitted applications for business support through EDTEA district offices in their respective areas. The assistance was aimed at strengthening their operations, improving productivity, and enabling them to build sustainable businesses that contribute to local economic growth.

In his address, MEC Zondi outlined the Department's initiatives to develop and strengthen the economies of rural areas and townships. He emphasised the important role that businesses in these communities play in creating employment opportunities and helping families overcome poverty.

MEC Zondi also encouraged young people and women in the Amajuba District to take initiative by establishing small enterprises that produce goods and services tailored to the needs of their communities, thereby contributing to local economic development and self-reliance.

The engagement underscored EDTEA's commitment to expanding access to enterprise development support and ensuring that entrepreneurs across the province have opportunities to grow their businesses, create jobs, and contribute to a more inclusive and resilient economy.



Emerging entrepreneurs from the Amajuba District received business support and operational resources during MEC Rev. Musa Zondi's Integrated Service Delivery Roadshow at Osizweni Sports Ground.



MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, greeting District Director, Ms. Gugu Sibisi.

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KZN EDTEA WhatsApp Channel

NEW TOURISM AND SMME FACILITY LAUNCHED IN MTUBATUBA

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and the Inkosi Mtubatuba Local Municipality, officially handed over the Mtubatuba Visitor Information Centre and SMME Facility, marking a significant investment in strengthening the local tourism economy and supporting small business development.

EDTEA Head of Department, Dr Nkosenye Zulu, represented the MEC, Rev. Musa Zondi, and delivered remarks on his behalf, highlighting the strategic role of tourism infrastructure in unlocking economic opportunities, stimulating entrepreneurship, and driving inclusive economic growth.

The facility was developed to serve as a key tourism and economic support hub, providing visitors with access to tourism information while creating a platform to showcase and promote local attractions, tourism products, and experiences. Its establishment is expected to strengthen Mtubatuba's tourism offering, enhance visitor experiences, and encourage increased tourism activity within the municipality and surrounding areas.

Beyond tourism promotion, the SMME facility is expected to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs and small businesses to access markets, showcase their products and services, and participate more meaningfully in the tourism value chain. This is anticipated to strengthen enterprise development, expand economic participation, and support job creation.

The investment also presents an opportunity to strengthen economic linkages between tourism and other key sectors, including hospitality, transport, arts and crafts, cultural experiences, and community-based tourism. By enhancing these connections, the facility is expected to ensure that increased tourism activity translates into tangible economic benefits for local businesses and surrounding communities.

The handover, held on 29 October 2026, demonstrated the importance of intergovernmental collaboration in delivering tourism infrastructure that supports local economic development and inclusive growth. It further reinforced the provincial government's commitment to positioning Mtubatuba as a destination of opportunity while ensuring that local communities and SMMEs benefit from the province's growing tourism economy.



Ms. Lungile Mthembu.



Acting Chief Director, Mr. Sibongeleni Zondi, and Chief Director, Dr. Bonginkosi Dlamini at the handover ceremony.



L-R: Mtubatuba Mayor, Cllr Mxolisi Mthethwa; EDTEA's Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu; MEC for COGTA, Rev. Thulasizwe Buthelezi and Inkosi Ntokozo Mkhwanazi.

EDTEA LEADS EFFORTS TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF KZN'S SUGAR INDUSTRY

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, reaffirmed his commitment to advancing and safeguarding the province's sugar industry during the KwaZulu-Natal Sugar Industry Colloquium, held in Mount Edgecombe, Durban, on 23 October 2026.

MEC Zondi placed the sugar industry firmly on the province's economic development agenda, emphasising the need for decisive collaboration among government, sugarcane growers, millers, and industry stakeholders to protect existing livelihoods, strengthen the sector's competitiveness, and unlock new opportunities for economic growth.

Underscoring his commitment to championing the industry, MEC Zondi highlighted the sector's longstanding contribution to KwaZulu-Natal's rural economy, noting that its significance extends beyond sugar production to supporting farming communities, sustaining employment, and stimulating economic activity across both the agricultural and manufacturing value chains.

"Sugar is not just another industry in this province. It is a pillar of our rural economy. Cane has been grown along our coast and in parts of the Midlands for generations," said MEC Zondi.

Through his participation in the colloquium, MEC Zondi provided strategic leadership in discussions on the chal-

lenges facing the industry, including the need to strengthen industry protection measures, support sugarcane growers, promote diversification, and explore new opportunities across the broader sugarcane value chain.

He also emphasised the importance of positioning the sugar industry for long-term sustainability through investment, innovation, and diversification. This includes exploring alternative uses of sugarcane and its by-products to create additional revenue streams, stimulate industrial development, and broaden economic participation.

MEC Zondi's engagement demonstrated the provincial government's commitment, under his leadership, to strengthening partnerships with industry stakeholders and pursuing practical interventions that protect jobs, support existing and emerging growers, promote enterprise development, and secure the future of the sector.

The colloquium reinforced the importance of a coordinated approach to addressing industry challenges while ensuring that the economic benefits of the sugar value chain continue to reach rural communities. The sector's contribution to agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, and related industries remains central to employment creation, household incomes, and economic development in KwaZulu-Natal.

Through his leadership and continued engagement with industry stakeholders, MEC Zondi remains committed to advancing the provincial government's efforts to safeguard the sugar industry as a strategic economic asset and to ensure its ongoing contribution to inclusive growth, rural development, and sustainable livelihoods.



MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, delivering the address at the colloquium.



EDTEA's Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu.



The engagement was attended by a number of stakeholders from the sugar industry.

KWAXOLO CAVES ADVENTURE CENTRE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AND HANDED OVER, BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The KwaXolo Caves Adventure Centre is poised to become a key tourism asset, with the potential to stimulate economic activity in surrounding communities.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) officially launched and handed over the KwaXolo Caves Adventure Centre in Margate on 20 October 2026, marking a significant milestone in the province's efforts to drive tourism-led economic growth, create employment opportunities, and stimulate local economic development.

The launch, led by the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, highlighted the strategic importance of tourism infrastructure investment in unlocking the economic potential of KwaZulu-Natal's diverse tourism attractions while advancing inclusive growth and socio-economic transformation.

The KwaXolo Caves Adventure Centre is poised to become a key tourism asset, with the potential to stimulate economic activity in surrounding communities through increased visitor numbers, longer tourist stays, and greater demand for local goods and services. The development is also expected to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs, small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs), tour operators, hospitality establishments, transport providers, and other businesses within the tourism value chain.

Reflecting on the significance of the occasion, MEC Zondi noted that the project represents far more than the completion of an infrastructure facility. He described it as a symbol of hope, opportunity, and the province's commitment to leveraging tourism as a catalyst for economic development and social transformation.

The handover underscored government's commitment to ensuring that tourism investments translate into tangible economic benefits for local commu-

nities, particularly through job creation, enterprise development, skills development, and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods. The centre is expected to strengthen the local tourism economy while creating an enabling environment for community-based tourism initiatives and increased participation by local businesses in the sector.

The development further reinforces KwaZulu-Natal's strategy of positioning its unique cultural, natural, and adventure tourism offerings as drivers of inclusive economic growth.

By investing in tourism infrastructure and fostering strategic partnerships, the province continues to advance efforts to attract visitors, stimulate investment, strengthen local economies, and broaden the economic benefits of tourism.



L-R: Dr. Nkosenye Zulu, Dr. Sbu Ndebele and MEC Rev Musa Zondi receiving a briefing from Ms. Ayanda Zondi.

The official launch and handover of the KwaXolo Caves Adventure Centre therefore represents an important step towards building a more competitive, inclusive, and sustainable tourism sector, with the potential to generate long-term economic opportunities for Margate and surrounding communities.

ZULULAND CELEBRATES AS NEW DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRES ARE UNVEILED



MEC for EDTEA, Rev Musa Zondi, cutting the ribbon at the eDumbe Digital Centre handover.

An atmosphere of excitement and renewed hope swept across the Zululand District on 31 October 2026 as the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, in partnership with the Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI), officially unveiled two new digital technology facilities.

The day's programme commenced in the AbaQulusi Local Municipality, where MEC Zondi officially launched the Mondlo Digital Centre.

The facility is expected to bring meaningful change to the lives of young people and local entrepreneurs by providing access to modern technology, expanding educational opportunities, and supporting business development.

In his address, MEC Zondi emphasised the importance of proper management and maintenance of the facility to ensure its long-term sustainability and continued provision of free services to the community. He encouraged residents to take ownership of the centre and safeguard it for the benefit of current and future generations.

The MEC then proceeded to Dumbe, where he officially unveiled the second

facility, the Dumbe Innovation Hub. Like the Mondlo Digital Centre, the hub will provide free access to technological resources and services, creating opportunities for community members to embrace innovation, develop digital skills, and participate meaningfully in the digital economy.

The day's programme culminated in a celebratory event at Tholakele Sportsfield, attended by government officials, traditional leaders, representatives of stakeholder organisations, and members of the community. The gathering marked the official unveiling of the two facilities, which stand as symbols of development, progress, and renewed opportunity for the people of the Zululand District.

The establishment of the Mondlo Digital Centre and Dumbe Innovation Hub represents more than an investment in technology; it is an investment in people, potential, and the future of Zululand. By expanding access to digital resources, government is creating an enabling environment for young people to acquire essential skills, entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, and communities to participate more fully in the digital economy.

These facilities are expected to serve as catalysts for innovation, inclusive economic participation, and sustainable development, ensuring that the benefits of technological advancement reach communities at grassroots level and contribute to long-term socio-economic growth across the district.



The Mondlo Digital Centre is expected to bring meaningful change by providing access to modern technology, expanding educational opportunities, and supporting business development.

KWAZULU-NATAL AIR QUALITY SCHOOLS COMPETITION



The winning schools with their prizes.

Under the theme **"Youth Action for Clean Air and Healthy Communities,"** the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), in partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), hosted the KwaZulu-Natal Air Quality Schools Competition at the King Bhekuzulu Hall, University of Zululand, on 08 October 2026.

The competition aimed to raise awareness among learners about air quality issues, encourage youth participation in environmental protection, and inspire young people to take action towards achieving cleaner air and healthier communities.

The event recognised schools that demonstrated innovative ideas and initiatives aimed at promoting clean air and addressing air quality challenges within their communities.

THE WINNING SCHOOLS WERE:

1st Place: Iniwe High School – R45,000

2nd Place: Mbuyuseni High School – R35,000

3rd Place: Qantayi High School – R20,000

The competition highlighted the important role that young people play in environmental stewardship and reaffirmed the commitment of EDTEA and DFFE to fostering environmental awareness and sustainable practices among learners across KwaZulu-Natal.



Pupils showcasing their work during the competition.

FAITH IN ACTION: BUILDING CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Ms. Mbali Mkhize delivering her presentation.



Attendees of the workshop.

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its Environmental Empowerment Management Services Unit, successfully hosted a Climate Change Capacity Building Workshop for faith-based organisations in the eThekwini District Municipality on 14 October 2026.

The workshop aimed to equip faith-based organisations with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the impacts of climate change, particularly the effects of natural disasters on communities, and the urgent need for collective action to safeguard the environment.

Recognising the influential role that faith-based organisations play in society, the workshop encouraged participants to become champions of climate action by raising environmental awareness, promoting sustainable practices, and inspiring their congregations and communities to take meaningful steps towards a greener, healthier and more climate-resilient future.

The initiative also highlighted the importance of collaboration between government and community-based stakeholders in strengthening resilience to climate change and fostering sustainable development at the local level.

BUILDING COMPLIANT, COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES IN CONSTRUCTION



Officials engaging with participants during the workshop.

The Economic Transformation Compliance Unit, in partnership with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC), hosted a B-BBEE Compliance and Home Building Skills Training Workshop at Marburg Library in Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, Ugu District, from 20 to 23 October 2026.

The workshop provided emerging contractors and construction-related businesses with practical knowledge and guidance on B-BBEE compliance requirements, NHBRC registration and membership processes, as well as home-building standards and regulatory compliance.

Participants were also supported through the NHBRC membership assessment process, enabling them to work towards the accreditation and membership required to operate effectively within the construction sector.

The programme equipped local businesses with the skills and knowledge needed to strengthen compliance, access new opportunities, and enhance their competitiveness within the construction industry.

The initiative reflects EDTEA's commitment to supporting the growth and development of emerging businesses by promoting compliance, capacity building, and sustainable participation in the construction sector.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP MONTH PROGRAMME



The judging panel watching the winners of the masterclass competition.



Winners of the masterclass competition.



Winner for the most beautiful stand.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (KZNEDTEA), in partnership with the KwaDukuza Local Municipality, hosted the Entrepreneurship Month Programme at the KwaDukuza Town Hall on 27 October 2026.

The programme brought together entrepreneurs from various sectors, including manufacturing, agro-processing, and clothing and textiles, to explore business opportunities, share experiences, and strengthen their entrepreneurial capabilities.

Activities included a Business Breakfast and Media Briefing, Ward Cluster Business Empowerment Workshops, Business Masterclasses, a Pop-up Market, a Business Pitching Competition, and an Excellence Awards Ceremony.

The programme aimed to empower entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed to establish, grow, and sustain their businesses. It also sought to promote innovation, encourage networking and collaboration, improve market access, create business opportunities, and recognise entrepreneurs who are making a positive contribution to economic growth and development in KwaZulu-Natal.

The initiative reaffirmed KZNEDTEA's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, supporting small business development, and creating an enabling environment for sustainable economic growth and job creation across the province.

EQUIPPING FUTURE TOURISM PROFESSIONALS FOR THE WORLD OF WORK



EDTEA officials during the Tourism Graduate Development Programme induction.



Attendees of the Tourism Graduate Development Programme induction.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) conducted the Tourism Graduate Development Programme (TGDP) Induction Session on 29 October 2026 at the Umfolozi Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort in Empangeni.

The session welcomed graduates into the programme and equipped them with essential knowledge and skills to support their professional development within the tourism sector.

The induction featured insightful presentations by specialists from the Department and the private sector, focusing on workplace readiness, employee wellness, financial management, and professional conduct.

Key topics covered during the session included COIDA and Leave Policy, where EDTEA's Human Resources Unit provided guidance on workplace injury compensation and leave provisions, helping graduates understand their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

The Employee Health and Wellness session, presented by EDTEA's Employee Health and Wellness Unit, highlighted the importance of maintaining physical, mental, and emotional well-being. In addition, Old Mutual provided a financial literacy session that offered valuable insights into financial planning, responsible money management, and building a secure financial future.

The induction session formed an important part of the Tourism Graduate Development Programme, ensuring that graduates are well prepared to enter the world of work with confidence, professionalism, and a strong understanding of workplace expectations.

The initiative demonstrates EDTEA's commitment to developing skilled tourism professionals and supporting the growth of the tourism sector through capacity building, mentorship, and workplace readiness programmes.

CELEBRATING TOURISM EXCELLENCE

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, delivered the keynote address at the Combined Tourism Graduation and Awards Ceremony held at the Umfolozi Casino Resort on 30 October 2026.

The ceremony celebrated the graduation of tourist guides who successfully completed their training programmes, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to enhance visitor experiences, strengthen the tourism sector, and contribute meaningfully to local economic development.

The event also recognised schools that excelled in the iNgakithi Schools Competition, a programme aimed at encouraging learners to embrace their cultural heritage, promote local tourism attractions, and serve as tourism ambassadors within their communities.

Joined by the Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu, and local government leaders, MEC Zondi reaffirmed the Department's commitment to skills development, youth empowerment, and the promotion of an inclusive and sustainable tourism industry in KwaZulu-Natal.

The ceremony highlighted the importance of investing in people and recognising excellence as key drivers of tourism growth, community development, and economic transformation across the province.



MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, delivering his address.



Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu.



Acting Chief Director, Ms. Ayanda Zondi, directing the programme.



Dignitaries with winners of iNgakithi Schools Competition.



Dignitaries with beneficiaries of the Tourism Graduate Development Programme.



Dignitaries with newly qualified tour guides.

2026 SENIOR CITIZENS PARLIAMENT



EDTEA's Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu addressing the Senior Citizens Parliament.

The Head of Department for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu, joined policymakers, community leaders, senior citizens, and other stakeholders at the 2026 Senior Citizens Parliament, held at the Inkosi Msinga Sports Centre in KwaXimba, within the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality.

Hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature on 02 October 2026, the Parliament was addressed by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr. Thamsanqa Ntuli, under the theme, **"The Age of Longevity: Connecting Generations and Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives."**

The event provided an important platform for discussions on the rights, wellbeing, and active participation of senior citizens in society, while encouraging collaboration among stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities associated with an ageing population.

During the programme, Dr. Zulu delivered a presentation on the impact of environmental changes, including climate change and environmental degradation, on older persons. He highlighted how these challenges affect the health, safety, and overall quality of life of senior cit-

izens, underscoring the importance of sustainable environmental management and climate resilience in protecting vulnerable communities.

The Parliament brought together government departments, civil society organisations, community leaders, and senior citizens to engage on issues affecting older persons and to explore strategies for promoting their dignity, wellbeing, and meaningful participation in society.

The event reaffirmed the commitment of stakeholders to creating inclusive communities that value and support senior citizens, while ensuring that their voices remain central to policy development and service delivery.

ROADSHOW PROMOTES COLLABORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT



Mr. Ntuthuko Makhubu engaging with participants.



Attendees of the roadshow.

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its Environmental Management Services Unit, hosted the first KwaZulu-Natal Integrated Waste Management Plan Roadshow in uMlalazi Local Municipality on 15 October 2026.

Held under the theme, **"Our People and Our Waste in a Changing Climate,"** the roadshow brought together representatives from government departments, municipalities, the private sector, and waste management enterprises to strengthen partnerships and promote sustainable waste management practices across the province.

The engagement focused on strengthening political leadership and intergovernmental coordination, raising public awareness, mobilising resources, mainstreaming waste management policies, and supporting the effective implementation of the KwaZulu-Natal Integrated Waste Management Plan.

The roadshow provided a platform for stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices, strengthen collaboration, and identify innovative solutions to address waste management challenges in the context of climate change.

The event reaffirmed the importance of collective action, coordinated planning, and inclusive partnerships in advancing sustainable waste management and building a cleaner, healthier, and more climate-resilient KwaZulu-Natal.

EDTEA SHOWCASES RESEARCH ON THE INFORMAL ECONOMY AT THE 5TH INFORMAL ECONOMY SUMMIT 2026

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its Research and Modelling Unit, participated in the 5th Informal Economy Summit, held from 20 to 21 October 2026 at the Durban Exhibition Centre in the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality.

During the summit, the Research and Modelling Unit delivered a presentation and hosted an exhibition stand, showcasing its research on the state of the informal economy in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Unit presented its ***Diagnostic Study on the State of the Informal Economy in KwaZulu-Natal,*** which examined the challenges and gaps experienced by informal traders in their day-to-day business operations. The study provided valuable insights into the operating environment, opportunities, and needs of informal businesses across the province.

The findings are expected to support the Department in developing evidence-based and targeted interventions aimed at strengthening the informal economy, improving support mechanisms for informal traders, and creating opportunities for sustainable business growth.

EDTEA's participation in the summit reaffirmed the Department's commitment to evidence-based planning, informed policy development, and the creation of an enabling environment for informal businesses to thrive and contribute meaningfully to the provincial economy.



Dr. Mandisa Mkhize delivering presentation on the state of the informal economy in KZN.

EDTEA EMPOWERS TRADITIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION



Ms. Nombuso Ngidi addressing traditional healers.



Traditional healers in attendance.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its Environmental Management Services Unit, hosted an Environmental Capacity-Building Workshop on 22 October 2026 at the Maphumulo Town Hall in the Maphumulo Local Municipality.

The workshop aimed to educate and empower Traditional Health Practitioners on their role in promoting the sustainable use, management, and conservation of natural resources within the communities they serve.

Discussions focused on the impact of climate change on natural resources and the traditional health sector, the effects of invasive alien species on biodiversity, water conservation and management, environmental health, as well as waste management and responsible waste disposal practices.

The workshop brought together a range of stakeholders, including the Department of Health, iLembe District Municipality, uMngeni-uThukela Water, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), and the Maphumulo Local Municipality.

The engagement provided an important platform for knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement, while highlighting the vital role of Traditional Health Practitioners in environmental protection and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Through this initiative, EDTEA strengthened environmental awareness and encouraged collective responsibility in conserving natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

DURBAN CHAMBER'S 170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



EDTEA MEC Rev. Musa Zondi with the Mayor of eThekwini, Cllr. Cyril Xaba.



President Cyril Ramaphosa addressing the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry's 170th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

The Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry marked its 170th anniversary with a prestigious gala dinner held on 28 October 2026 under the theme, **"Building Confidence Together."**

The event brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs, and public sector representatives to celebrate the Chamber's longstanding contribution to the economic development of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, and South Africa.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, and the Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu, attended the gala dinner, which was graced by the presence of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

In his address, President Ramaphosa described it as a privilege to celebrate the Chamber's 170-year milestone, recognising it as the oldest and largest metropolitan chamber of commerce on the African continent. He noted that the achievement

reflected the organisation's resilience and ability to adapt to significant political, social, and economic changes over the past 170 years.

The President further acknowledged the Chamber's longstanding role in representing and advancing the interests of the business community through various historical periods, including colonial rule, apartheid, and the democratic era. He highlighted the organisation's continued ability to evolve and respond to the changing needs of the economy and its members.

The celebration reaffirmed the value of sustained cooperation between government and the business community in advancing economic development, strengthening investor confidence, and creating opportunities for businesses and communities across KwaZulu-Natal.

MEC ZONDI CALLS FOR GREATER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS



MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, addressing the Youth Empowerment Business Breakfast.

The MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, has called for greater economic opportunities and support for young entrepreneurs.

He was speaking during the Youth Empowerment Business Breakfast, held on 31 October 2026 at the De Volpe Wedding and Conference Centre in eMondlo, under the AbaQulusi Local Municipality.

The event brought together young entrepreneurs, business leaders, government representatives, and key stakeholders to engage in meaningful discussions on youth economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and access to economic opportunities.

Delivering the keynote address, MEC Zondi emphasised the vital role that young people play in driving economic growth, innovation, and job creation. He highlighted that young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow but are also entrepreneurs, innovators, and job creators who are making significant contributions to the economy today.

The breakfast aimed to bridge the gap between available economic opportunities and young people who often face challenges in accessing information, business networks, funding opportunities, and institutional support.

MEC Zondi encouraged young people from AbaQulusi and the broader Zululand District to recognise their potential and take advantage of the economic opportunities available within their communities. He further urged aspiring entrepreneurs to embrace innovation, remain committed to continuous learning, build strong business relationships, and utilise available support programmes and resources to grow and sustain their enterprises.

The engagement provided a valuable platform for young entrepreneurs to interact with government and business stakeholders, exchange ideas, and explore opportunities for business development and collaboration.

The initiative reaffirmed EDTEA's commitment to promoting youth entrepreneurship, expanding economic participation, and creating an enabling environment for young people to establish sustainable businesses and contribute meaningfully to economic development in KwaZulu-Natal.



EDTEA MEC Rev. Musa Zondi speaking with presenters from uKhozi FM on the sidelines of the Youth Empowerment Business Breakfast.



Youth entrepreneurs in attendance.

EMPOWERING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), in collaboration with the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Graduate School of Business and Leadership and ABSA, hosted the Demo Day of the KZN Social Economy Development Programme, also known as the Champions Programme.

Held on on 9 October 2026 at the UKZN Westville Campus, the event marked the culmination of a seven-month journey of learning, growth, and enterprise development for 22 social entrepreneurs from across KwaZulu-Natal. Fully funded by EDTEA, the programme seeks to strengthen public-private partnerships and advance social entrepreneurship throughout the province.

Demo Day provided participants with an opportunity to showcase their enterprises, share their achievements, demonstrate their social impact, and engage with potential funders, partners, and other key stakeholders.

Through the programme, participants acquired essential skills in business management, leadership, financial management, marketing, and innovation, enabling them to strengthen their enterprises, enhance sustainability, create employment opportunities, and address social and environmental challenges within their communities.

The event also highlighted the importance of strategic partnerships in promoting inclusive economic growth and building a vibrant social economy in KwaZulu-Natal.

Delivering the keynote address, EDTEA Head of Department, Dr. Nkosenye Zulu, emphasised the importance of resilience and the transformative power of social entrepreneurship. He noted that the occasion celebrated innovation, determination, and the ability of social enterprises to transform communities while driving inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The programme reaffirmed EDTEA's commitment to supporting social entrepreneurs as catalysts for positive change and to fostering an enabling environment for enterprises that create both economic and social value.



EDTEA HOD: Dr. Nkosenye Zulu delivering the keynote address.



EDTEA and UKZN officials with the winners.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES CLEANER AND GREENER



Mr. Vusi Khanyile addressing attendees.



Mr. Sihle Sithole served as programme director for the day.



Volunteers cleaning on the side of the road as part of the clean-up campaign.

On 14 October 2026, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) led a clean-up campaign at Mafitleng in Ward 16, Nquthu Local Municipality, under the theme,

"A Cleaner Community Begins with Me."

The campaign brought together EDTEA, the Nquthu Local Municipality, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), KwaZulu-Natal Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), and community members to remove waste and promote environmental stewardship within the area.

Following the clean-up activity, EDTEA hosted a community awareness session aimed at educating residents on sustainable waste management practices. The session covered waste minimisation strategies, provided information on the DFFE Working on Waste (WoW) Programme, and highlighted the importance of enforcing by-laws relating to illegal dumping while supporting local recycling initiatives.

The campaign held additional significance as it coincided with World E-Waste Day, drawing attention to the growing challenge of electronic waste, one of the fastest-growing waste streams globally. As part of the awareness programme, EDTEA officials conducted an e-waste awareness and safe disposal session, educating community members on the responsible disposal of obsolete electronic devices to protect the environment, safeguard water resources, and promote public health.

The initiative demonstrated the value of collaboration between government and communities in creating cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environments. It also reinforced the importance of individual responsibility in protecting the environment and ensuring a greener future for all.

TURNING WASTE INTO OPPORTUNITY

On 19 October 2026, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its Environmental Empowerment Unit, in collaboration with Refresha Trading Enterprises, hosted the 4th Interschool Upcycling Fair at the Sharks Board Training Centre in uMhlanga.

The fair was a youth-focused initiative aimed at promoting sustainability and creativity among Grade 6 learners by providing a platform for them to showcase their talent, innovation, and creativity through the transformation of plastic water bottles into functional and innovative products.

Through this initiative, learners participated in experiential learning activities that promoted environmental awareness and encouraged the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The programme also fostered creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and practical problem-solving skills through hands-on, project-based learning.

Speakers emphasised the importance of upcycling and the adoption of sustainable practices that promote resource efficiency and minimise waste. They highlighted the distinction between a linear economy, in which resources are used and discarded, and a circular economy, which seeks to keep materials in use for as long as possible through reuse, repair, recycling and upcycling.

Learners were encouraged to view waste as a valuable resource rather than a disposable material, noting that discarded items can be transformed into useful products instead of ending up in landfills or polluting the environment.

The fair provided also learners with an opportunity to exhibit their projects alongside peers from other schools, exchange ideas, and demonstrate how waste materials can be transformed into valuable and purposeful products. The event also recognised and rewarded outstanding projects, celebrating the learners' ingenuity, commitment, and contribution to environmental sustainability.



EDTEA's Dr. Mqobi Zungu delivering the keynote address.



Awarding the winner of the special prize for creating an upcycling robot.



EDTEA staff with winners, judges and teachers.

All **EDTEA** internal stakeholders are urged to discontinue using the old templates and adopt the revised templates.

Why are Brand Guidelines Important

- Brand Consistency
- Brand Recognition
- Set Standard Rules
- Cohesive Message
- Avoids Confusion
- Builds Trust

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WARD-BASED BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP



Ms. Lindiwe Mgobhozi delivering a presentation how businesses are assisted.



Emerging business owners from Nyonamanzi Area attended in numbers.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its iLembe District Office Small Business Development (SBD) Unit, in collaboration with the KwaDukuza Local Municipality, First National Bank (FNB), and Standard Bank, participated in the KwaDukuza Entrepreneurship Month Programme 2026.

The programme commenced on 07 October 2026 and concluded on 27 October 2026, with a range of activities taking place at various venues across the municipality.

As part of the programme, a Ward-Based Business Empowerment Workshop was held at Nyonamanzi Open Space in Ward 16, where local entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners were engaged on business development opportunities, access to support programmes, financial services, and other resources aimed at strengthening and growing small businesses.

The initiative sought to empower local entrepreneurs, promote entrepreneurship, and contribute to sustainable economic growth and job creation within KwaDukuza. It also aimed to bring government services closer to communities by ensuring that entrepreneurs at ward level have access to relevant information, support programmes, and resources required to establish, grow, and sustain their businesses.

The workshop provided an important platform for engagement between government, financial institutions, and local entrepreneurs, while supporting the development of a vibrant and inclusive small business sector. The initiative further demonstrated the commitment of EDTEA and its partners to fostering entrepreneurship and promoting economic participation at community level.

POP-UP MARKET | SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its iLembe District Office, in collaboration with the KwaDukuza Local Municipality, supported a two-day Pop-Up Market at KwaDukuza Mall from 23 to 24 October 2026.

The initiative formed part of the KwaDukuza Entrepreneurship Month Programme 2026 and provided a platform for small businesses supported by the KwaDukuza Local Municipality to showcase their products and services, access new markets, expand their business networks, and connect with potential customers.

The Pop-Up Market also encouraged shoppers and visitors to support local entrepreneurs by purchasing locally produced goods and services, thereby contributing to the growth and sustainability of small businesses within the municipality.

The initiative provided participating entrepreneurs with valuable exposure, opportunities to engage directly with customers, and insights into market trends and consumer preferences. It also promoted collaboration among small businesses and strengthened local enterprise development.

Through initiatives such as these, EDTEA continues to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen local economic development, and create opportunities for small businesses to grow, compete, and thrive within the provincial economy.



EDTEA staff at the information table during the pop-up market.





Business owners were given promotional materials.





Business owners showcasing their products.

FISHING INDUSTRY CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its Environmental Empowerment Management Services, hosted a Fishing Industry Capacity-Building Workshop at the MPCC Hall in Ward 17, uMzumbe Local Municipality. The workshop aimed to enhance knowledge and skills within the fishing industry, promote sustainable fishing practices, and raise awareness of natural resource management to support the responsible use, protection, and conservation of aquatic resources.

Through initiatives such as this, EDTEA continues to advance environmental awareness, promote sustainable resource management, and empower communities involved in the fishing industry.



Ms. Bongeka Kweyama delivering her presentation.



Attendees listening to the Eskom presentation.

HANDOVER OF MPOPHOMENI INFORMAL TRADERS COMPLEX



EDTEA's Chief Director, Mr. Ranveer Persad, delivering message of support.



Umgeni Municipality Mayor, Councillor Chris Papas.



L-R: Umngeni Mayor, Cllr. Chris Papas, Mr. Ranveer Persad, Cllr. Thulani Weza and beneficiaries unveiling the plaque.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), in partnership with uMngeni Municipality, handed over the Mpophomeni Informal Traders Complex, on 29 October 2026.

Through the Municipal Infrastructure for Informal Enterprises (MIIE) Programme, EDTEA invested R2.4 million in grant funding towards the project, demonstrating the Department's commitment to supporting local economic development and creating an enabling environment for micro and small enterprises to thrive.

This partnership, together with the strategic support and commitment of the leadership of uMngeni Municipality, played an instrumental role in transforming this vision into reality.

The Mpophomeni Informal Traders Complex reflects EDTEA's commitment to unlocking and supporting the economic potential of township and rural communities, in line with the Provincial Township and Rural Economic Revitalisation Strategy.

The initiative was designed to provide appropriate infrastructure and accessible business spaces that promote entrepreneurship, support self-employment, and create opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

A total of 11 micro, informal, and small enterprises are benefiting from the facility, gaining access to dedicated trading spaces from which to operate, expand their businesses, and contribute to the local economy.

Through strategic partnerships and targeted funding interventions, EDTEA continues to advance inclusive economic development, strengthen local enterprises, and expand economic opportunities for communities across KwaZulu-Natal.

EDTEA EMPOWERS YOUTH AND INFORMAL RECYCLERS THROUGH WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY WORKSHOP



Attendees of the workshop.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its Environmental Management Services Directorate, hosted a capacity-building workshop on waste management and the circular economy at the Mabuthela Thusong Centre in the uMvoti Local Municipality, under the uMzinyathi District Municipality.

The initiative was implemented in partnership with the uMvoti Local Municipality, Ncendo Training Project, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) as part of the Department's ongoing environmental awareness and capacity-building programmes.

The workshop aimed to educate and empower young people and informal recyclers on the environmental impacts of waste, sustainable waste management practices, and the economic opportunities that can be created through recycling, reclaiming, and repurposing waste materials.

Through presentations and interactive engagements, participants gained valuable insight into the principles of a circular economy, which promotes the continued use of materials for as long as possible, minimises waste, and facilitates the recovery of valuable resources that might otherwise be discarded.

The initiative also highlighted the significant role that effective waste management can play in supporting local economic development, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, and strengthening community participation in environmental protection.

By encouraging communities to adopt responsible waste management practices, the Department seeks to promote cleaner and healthier environments, conserve natural resources, and contribute to a more sustainable future while creating income-generating opportunities, particularly for young people and informal recyclers.

EDTEA ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS ON CO-OPERATIVE REPURPOSING TO STRENGTHEN THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CO-OPERATIVES



EDTEA District Director, Ms. Gugu Sibisi.



Mr. Khulekani Ngubane addressing the workshop.



Attendees of the workshop.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), through its Directorate: Enterprise Development, hosted a Co-operatives Repurposing Stakeholder Engagement Session on 07 October 2026 in Dundee, within the uMzinyathi District Municipality.

The session brought together a range of stakeholders to explore practical interventions aimed at strengthening co-operatives, enhancing their sustainability, and preventing viable enterprises from failing.

The engagement focused on the repurposing of co-operatives and the development of a more coordinated approach to co-operative support across the province. Stakeholders were afforded an opportunity to share information on their areas of operation, core services, involvement in small enterprise development, and organisational footprint. This provided a platform to identify opportunities for collaboration, reduce duplication of efforts, and streamline support services available to co-operatives.

Presentations covered the mandate of the Co-operative Development Unit, EDTEA funding opportunities, and Business Regulation Services, followed by an overview of the new co-operative development process. The session also highlighted key EDTEA enterprise development interventions, including shared production facilities and incubation programmes, training and capacity building, mentorship and coaching, access to markets, and access to finance.

These interventions are designed to equip small enterprises and co-operatives with the necessary business, financial, and technical skills while improving their ability to access markets and sustainable funding opportunities.

Deliberations further emphasised the importance of stronger collaboration among government departments, support institutions, and other stakeholders to ensure that co-operatives receive the appropriate support at the right stage of their development.

Through the co-operative repurposing initiative, EDTEA seeks to strengthen existing co-operatives, address challenges affecting their operations, and establish a more integrated support system that contributes to business sustainability, job creation, and inclusive economic participation across KwaZulu-Natal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	ENGAGEMENT
02 - 03 November 2026	KZN Business Compliance Indaba in Greyville Convention Centre, Durban
06 November 2026	Capacity Building Workshop for Amakhosi at Dududu Community Hall
11 November 2026	uMzinyathi Development Model Tourism Stakeholder Outreach Session at Greytown Hotel
12 November 2026	Umgungundlovu DDM Tourism Stakeholder Outreach Session at Golden Horse Casino
14 November 2026	Midmar Spring Festival at Midmar Dam
17 November 2026	Capacity Building Workshop for Senior Citizens at Ray Nkonyeni LM
17 November 2026	Supplier Development Workshop in Newcastle
17 November 2026	Stakeholder Engagement at 1 North Drive, Hope Fontein In Ixopo
21 November 2026	2026 Simon Mabhunu Sabela Awards at Durban Playhouse
24 November 2026	Cooperatives Stakeholder Engagement, KwaDukuza Supper Room, Stanger
24 November 2026	Zululand Pre-exhibition and Pop-Up Market at King Senzangakhona Shopping Centre, uLundi
24 November 2026	Launch the Knowledge Café Resource Centre, EDTEA Head Office, Pietermaritzburg
27 November2026	Knowledge Management Awards, 191 Prince Alfred Street, Pietermaritzburg