

PROVINCIAL GOV SIMAMA

Inspiring New Hope

KZN Premier hosts Africa's biggest Property Management Conference to 'Build KZN Better'



The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, under the leadership of Premier Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli on 28 January 2025, launched Africa's Biggest Property Management Conference at the Durban Chief Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre. Co-hosted by the National and Provincial Departments of Public Works and Infrastructure and the eThekweni Municipality, the two-day event, running from 28 to 29 January 2025 has drawn hundreds of property industry experts and stakeholders from across the continent.

Organised under the theme "Build KZN Better," the conference aimed to foster collaboration, share cutting-edge insights, and explore innovative solutions in property management. Participants included property developers, investors, government representatives, and infrastructure specialists, all united in their commitment to advancing KwaZulu-Natal's real estate sector and boosting economic growth.

Premier Ntuli welcomed delegates, underscoring the importance of creating resili-

ent, sustainable infrastructure that aligns with the province's development goals. "Our objective is to build KwaZulu-Natal back stronger than ever before," said Ntuli. "By mobilising experts and stakeholders in the property sector, we can collectively revitalise our urban and rural landscapes, stimulate investment, and generate opportunities for all."

Attendees discussed best practices in land use, construction, and property management while addressing challenges such as climate resilience, affordable housing, and inclusive development. The conference is expected to yield actionable strategies and partnerships designed to drive long-term growth throughout KwaZulu-Natal and beyond.



KZN Premier Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli briefs the media on ITHALA SOC Developments



KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli on 28 January 2025 hosted a media briefing to provide critical updates on recent developments involving Ithala SOC. This briefing highlighted the steps undertaken by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) to ensure Ithala's continued service to the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

As a key institution in advancing economic transformation and promoting inclusive growth, Ithala SOC remains a strategic partner for the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government. The Premier reaffirmed the administration's commitment to strengthening its partnership with Ithala, a relationship that has been a cornerstone of provincial development initiatives under successive administrations.

The briefing also addressed Ithala's role as the province's primary banking partner, as well as initiatives aimed at enhancing its operational capacity to meet the needs of citizens and drive sustainable development.



AS A MAN, I COMMIT TO NEVER:



A pledge for South African men to end gender-based violence and femicide

- 1) Raise my hand against a woman. Intimidate, threaten, or demean any woman, whether it be physically, verbally, emotionally or sexually, or allow any other person to do so.
- 2) Perpetuate stereotypes about women or assume

- dignity.
- 7) Make a child feel unsafe or uncomfortable with my presence, words, or actions. Engage in any inappropriate contact with a child or disregard their boundaries.

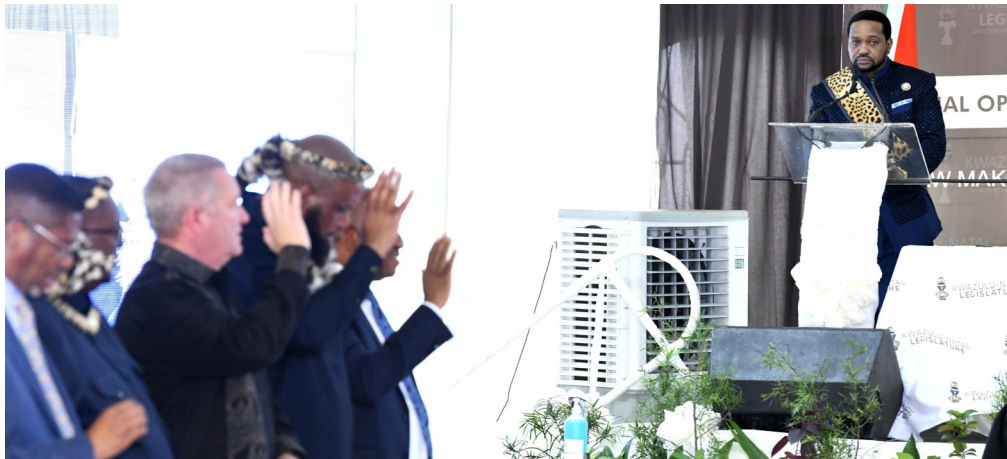
anything about a woman from what she is wearing.

- 3) Make a woman feel violated by my gaze, my words or my actions or make her uncomfortable due to my presence.
- 4) Make physical and/or sexual contact with a woman without her explicit permission or force her into something she does not want to do.
- 5) Condone or remain silent about gender-based violence. Walk away from my responsibilities as a father, if I have 6) children.
- 6) Use my position at home, in the workplace and in other social spaces to undermine women's human rights and

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His Majesty, ISILO Misuzulu kaZwelithini officially opens the KZN Legislature



Congo, acknowledging their sacrifice and commitment to peace-keeping efforts.

Furthermore, His Majesty condemned the alarming rise in crime and the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide in the province. He called for collective action from all sectors of society to curb these social ills and ensure a safer environment for all citizens.

In his response, Premier Ntuli expressed profound gratitude for His Majesty's words of wisdom and commitment to the welfare of the people of KwaZulu-Natal. He assured the King that the Provincial Government of Unity would continue working tirelessly to address the concerns raised and implement programs aimed at fostering hope and prosperity among the people.

Isilo Samabandla, His Majesty King Misuzulu kaZwelithini, officially opened the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature in a significant ceremony that highlighted the deep-rooted relationship between traditional leadership and governance in the province.

In his address, His Majesty praised KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli, for his unwavering commitment

to strengthening traditional leadership structures in the province. His Majesty underscored the importance of preserving cultural heritage while fostering unity and development.

Expressing deep sympathy, His Majesty extended heartfelt condolences to families who lost loved ones in the recent devastating floods. He also paid tribute to the 14 South African soldiers who tragically lost their lives while serving in the Democratic Republic of



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Sustainability

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Premier Ntuli delivers KwaZulu-Natal State of the Province Address 2025 (SOPA)



months ago at Woodburn Stadium in Pietermaritzburg.

During this address, Premier Ntuli provided an update on the 7th Administration's progress and outlined measures to tackle the province's socio-economic challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and the rising cost of living. With KwaZulu-Natal's population now at 12.8 million, the Premier presented strategies for inclusive economic growth, job creation, and building a capable, ethical, and developmental state.

The Premier's speech outlines key achievements and initiatives across various sectors in KwaZulu-Natal. It highlights strong economic growth, education improvements, infrastructure development, and social sup-

KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable the Province Address (SOPA) on Friday, 28 February 2025, since assuming office eight

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Record-breaking **89.5% matric pass rate** in 2024, with all districts above 80%.
- Increase in schools achieving **100% pass rates** (from 246 in 2023 to 321 in 2024).
- School nutrition program** benefits 2.5 million learners.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

- Ithala Development Finance Corporation** repositioned to drive economic transformation, with **R200 million** for small businesses and cooperatives.
- In partnership with **Fuze Institute**, training and placement programs for **12,000 youth** in farming, construction, renewable energy, and aviation.
- Support for youth and women entrepreneurs** through mentorship, funding, and market access.

INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- R7 billion LNG project** in Richards Bay, creating 1,200 jobs.
- Wilmar Processing SA investment** increased from R1.1 billion to over R2 billion.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND VULNERABILITY

- Ongoing provision of **social grants** (child support, foster care, old age, and disability).
- Child protection initiatives**, including child abuse prevention and youth care centers.

Elderly care through old age homes and community-

OCEANS ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Fish farm completed** at uMhlabuyalingana; plans to expand the program.
- Maritime training for graduates** in partnership with Sandock Austral Shipyards.
- Major road upgrades** (N3, N2, and key provincial

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

- Government committed to **eradicating GBV and femicide**.

Support for child-headed households, ensuring ac-

ECONOMIC PROTECTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Operation "Ongangeni Ngesango Uyafohla" uncovered illegal business activities, emphasizing the need

BUSINESS SECTOR PLEDGES MILLIONS TOWARDS KZN'S ECONOMY AT POST-SOPA BUSINESS BREAKFAST



As part of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government's commitment to accelerating economic growth, Premier Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli led a high-level Investment Business Breakfast on 6 March 2025 at Umhlanga Coastlands. This event followed the State of the Province Address (SOPA) delivered on 28 February 2025 and served as a crucial platform for fostering strategic economic partnerships.

The Premier was joined by Sport, Arts, and Culture MEC Mntomuhle Khawula and eThekweni Deputy Mayor Cllr Zandile Myeni. Key industry leaders, policymakers, and investors gathered to discuss investment opportunities, infrastructure development, and economic transformation.

Premier Ntuli opened the event by unpacking the SOPA, emphasizing the government's commitment to creating a business-friendly environment. "One of the key focal areas of our term will be to drive increased trade and investment, ensuring that this province becomes the premier destination for industrial expansion and global commerce," he stated.

The Premier outlined the eight key priorities for the province over the next five years:

- Rebuilding the economy
- Strengthening local government and governance
- Sustainable development
- Improving healthcare and education
- Delivering better human settlement and infrastructure
- Improving community safety
- Mitigating climate change

Building a capable, ethical, and developmental state

Highlighting the province's economic strategy, Premier Ntuli stressed that KwaZulu-Natal is rolling out a multi-faceted approach to intensify investment, trade facilitation, and investor confidence. "Our approach includes direct district-level engagements with the business sector, outbound business missions targeting key global markets, and inbound missions to showcase investment-ready opportunities," he added.

KwaZulu-Natal is strengthening trade corridors and enhancing the competitiveness of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Richards Bay and Dube Trade Port. "These zones are key drivers of industrialization, export growth, and employment creation," he said.

Infrastructure development is also a priority, with the province accelerating investments in rail, road, water, and energy networks to enhance supply chain efficiency and reduce business costs. "These enhancements will make KwaZulu-Natal an even more attractive investment destination," the Premier noted.

At the breakfast, business entities from various sectors pledged millions of Rands towards revitalizing KwaZulu-Natal's economy. These investments will drive job creation, infrastructure development, and industrial expansion, aligning with the government's vision of an inclusive and thriving economy.

Premier Ntuli provided an update on investment commitments made at the KZN Investment Conference in November 2024. "The 17 projects recorded at that conference represent a combined R85.2 billion in committed investment pledges, which will generate over 82,271 permanent jobs once fully operational," he announced.

The Premier acknowledged challenges in project implementation but reassured investors that the government is actively working to resolve these issues. "The commitment from both investors and the government will ensure that these projects reach their full potential, driving economic growth and job creation across the province," he affirmed.

With South Africa hosting the G20 Presidency later in the year, Premier Ntuli emphasized the importance of global partnerships. "Our high-level engagements with the diplomatic corps and



Business entities from various sectors pledged millions of Rands towards revitalizing KwaZulu-Natal's economy.



KwaZulu-Natal Director-General Dr Nonhlanhla O Mkhize and Head of KZN Department for Community Safety and Liaison Ms Glenrose Phumzile Xaba-Makhetha during the Post-SOPA Business Breakfast at Umhlanga Coastlands on 06 March 2025.

KZN PREMIER NTULI OPENS 2025 PREMIER'S NETBALL CUP OPENING CEREMONY



KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli, officially opens the much-anticipated Premier's Netball Cup 2025 at Victoria Mxenge Hall in Umlazi on 6 March 2025. The prestigious tournament serves as a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent, compete at a high level, and advance their sporting careers, reinforcing the Provincial Government's commitment to youth development and sports excellence.

Addressing a packed audience of sports officials, players, and community leaders, Premier Ntuli emphasized the unifying power of sports and the crucial role of netball in fostering social cohesion and personal growth.

"Sport is the only activity that can bring together all the people of South Africa across class, race, and gender divides. When we watch sport, we forget who we are; we all become fans united behind our teams, cheering them to victory," said Premier Ntuli.

The tournament, which gathers top teams from various districts, offers players the opportunity to gain provincial honours, with potential pathways to joining the Kingdom Stars franchise and even the national Spar Netball Proteas team.



KwaZulu-Natal Premier Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli, was welcomed with energetic song and dance during the official opening of the inaugural Premier's Netball Cup, at Victoria Mxenge Hall in Umlazi,

Premier Ntuli encouraged the athletes to approach the competition with determination, resilience, and a winning mindset. "You are here because you deserve to be here. Over the next few days, you will test your preparedness, fitness, and awareness. You will jump, sweat, and fall. But victory will come because when you fall, you rise, and when you rise after a fall, you are even more determined to win," he stated.

Acknowledging the tireless efforts of KZN Sport and KZN Netball in organizing the event, Premier Ntuli extended gratitude to key figures in the sporting sector, including KZN Sport President Mr. T. Mchunu and KZN Netball President Mrs. G. Ngema, for their dedication to the success of the tournament. He also commended the MEC for Sport, Arts, and Culture, Hon. M.B. Khawula, for his leadership in driving sports development across the province.

"If we are to use sport in our efforts to bring the people of KwaZulu-Natal together, all our teams and sporting codes must reflect the demographics of our province. This is how we will build a winning province and nation by bringing all



KwaZulu-Natal Netball teams



ensuring a steady pipeline of emerging talent. Furthermore, at least 12 players per team must participate in a minimum of 50% of the matches, allowing fair opportunities for skill enhancement and exposure.

The tournament will not only showcase the grace and intensity of modern netball but will also serve as a launchpad for athletes aiming to secure provincial and national representation. Players will have the chance to be scouted for teams such as the Kingdom Stars, KZN's professional netball franchise, and potentially the Spar Proteas, South Africa's national netball team.

The KZN Premier's Netball Cup aligns with the broader mission of Netball South Africa (NSA), the governing body responsible for the sport's development nationwide. NSA has played a pivotal role in positioning South Africa as a dominant force in international netball, most notably hosting the 2023 Netball World Cup—a landmark achievement that underscored the country's growing influence in the sport. Netball remains one of the most widely played sports in South Africa, with over two million participants, second only to soccer in popularity. The tournament reflects the national vision to increase mass participation in sport, enhance collaboration and resource integration, promote unity and social cohesion, establish netball as a career pathway for young athletes, encourage sponsorship and investment in netball's growth, and develop infrastructure to sustain long-term sport development.

The KZN Premier's Netball Cup is not just about competition—it represents a comprehensive strategy to professionalize the sport. The tournament aims to nurture talent across all aspects of netball, including coaching, officiating, sports administration, marketing, and sponsorship acquisition. By investing in these areas, the province is ensuring that netball evolves into a career-building platform, contributing to job creation and boosting sport tourism in KwaZulu-Natal. The provincial government calls upon businesses, local municipalities, and fans to actively support netball—both financially and through engagement—to ensure its sustainable growth.

The competition also celebrates the rise of men's netball, which has gained significant momentum in South Africa. Special recognition was given to Vukile Prince Zulu, a young athlete from Hambanathi, uThongathi, who has achieved remarkable success in the sport. His journey, which began in 2020 under coach Joe Taylor Mhlongo, has led him to win KZN Netball Super League Defender of the Year (2024) with the Ocean Predators, represent South Africa at the 2023 U-23 Fast5 Tournament in New Zealand, and secure a continental championship title with the SA Senior Men's Team at the 2024 Africa Netball Championships in Namibia.

Zulu's recent invitation to participate in Jamaica's National Male Netball League is a testament to the growing opportunities for men in netball, further promoting gender equality and transformation in South African sports. This development demonstrates the potential of the sport not only among women but also among men, contributing to equality and transformation in building a non-racial, non-sexist, and united society.

The KZN Premier's Netball Cup is more than just a tournament—it is a

KZN Premier launches Netball Cup 2025 to

KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli, on 02 March 2025 launched the inaugural KZN Premier's Netball Cup, a ground-breaking initiative aimed at expanding and developing netball across the province. The launch took place at Coastlands Hotel, Musgrave in Durban.

The initiative aligns with the province's broader commitment as outlined During the State of the Province Address 2025 to sports development, youth empowerment, and social cohesion.

The tournament, designed for young women between the ages of 16 and 36, serves as a crucial building block for the future of netball in KwaZulu-Natal. It will feature 12 district-

PREMIER NTULI CELEBRATES INDIA'S 76TH REPUBLIC DAY ANNIVERSARY



KwaZulu-Natal Premier Honourable Thamsanqa Mtsheni on 26 January 2025, joined the Indian community and dignitaries in Durban to celebrate the 76th anniversary of India's Republic Day. The occasion commemorated India's transition to a republic in 1950, following its independence in 1947, and underscored the longstanding friendship between South Africa and India.

The Premier drew on the words of Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who recalled how India's achievement of republic status in 1950 inspired South Africans fighting for their own freedom. Premier Mtsheni emphasised the parallels between the Indian Constitution of 1950 and South Africa's 1996 Constitution, both of which are cornerstones of democracy and social justice.

Premier Mtsheni highlighted the deep historical ties linking South Africans of Indian descent and those of African descent, tracing these bonds back to the arrival of the SS Truro in 1860. He pointed to the ways these two communities have worked together over the years, from the struggle against oppression to establishing democratic governance after 1994.

In his remarks, the Premier praised India's founding leaders, including Prime Minister Jawaharlal Pandit Nehru, whose ideas influenced South Africa's first democratic president, Nelson Mandela. Nehru's concept of a "no easy walk to freedom" served as inspiration for Madiba's iconic biography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. Premier Mtsheni also referenced the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi, noting that both Gandhi and Nehru championed inclusive approaches to unity rather than confrontational policies.

"This celebration reminds us that hope and collaboration can guide nations toward justice and democracy," Premier Mtsheni said. "KwaZulu-Natal stands firm in its commitment to building an inclusive province, and we look forward to continuing our shared journey with India."

As KwaZulu-Natal pursues its mission of leaving no one behind and fostering a brighter, more inclusive future, the Premier called on South Africans to reflect on the lessons from India's journey to a republic. The event concluded with well-wishes and congratulations to the people of India on this significant anniversary.

"Happy Anniversary India!" Premier Mtsheni proclaimed. "May the friendship between our two nations continue to deepen, guided by the principles of equality, unity, and freedom."





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KWAZULU-NATAL PREMIER
HON. THAMSANQA NTULI
WELCOMES
THE **G20** DELEGATES



KWAZULU-NATAL
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Meeting present
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South Africa's G20 Presidency, December 2024 - November 2025

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South Africa's
theme for the
G20 in 2025 is
Solidarity
Equality
Sustainability

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Equality

Equality-in-action:
Fair opportunities
for all nations

South Africa's G20 Presidency, December 2024 - November 2025

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