

**MEDIA INVITE
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MEC ZONDI LEADS INNOVATION & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS SUMMIT TO DRIVE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), in partnership with the Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI), will host the Innovation and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Summit on 5–6 February 2026 at the Olive Convention Centre in Durban.

The two-day provincial summit will convene innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, policymakers, and custodians of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) to explore how indigenous wisdom and modern innovation can work together to drive inclusive and sustainable economic development in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Summit will be officially opened by the MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, who will also deliver the Keynote Address on Day One. His participation underscores the Provincial Government's commitment to strengthening innovation ecosystems, supporting entrepreneurship, and advancing the ethical integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems into the mainstream economy.

Through panel discussions, masterclasses, innovation exhibitions, and investor engagements, the Summit will showcase innovative solutions grounded in Indigenous Knowledge and modern technology. These solutions span key sectors including agriculture, renewable energy, water and sanitation, digital solutions, manufacturing, and sustainable products.

Speaking ahead of the Summit, the MEC emphasised that the platform goes beyond dialogue by creating tangible opportunities for collaboration, funding, policy alignment, and the commercialisation of innovative solutions that respond to local development challenges.

The Innovation and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Summit forms part of MKRI's flagship innovation programmes and aligns with the implementation of the Indigenous Knowledge Act (2019), as well as KwaZulu-Natal's broader economic development and innovation priorities.

Event Details:

Date: 5–6 February 2026

Venue: Olive Convention Centre, Durban

ENDS

For Media RSVP & Enquiries:

Ms. Sinenhlanhla Mthembu - EDTEA Media Liaison Officer & Spokesperson

083 461 0113

OR

Mr. Kamvalethu Xhelithole - MKRI Digital Communications Specialist

079 857 8084

ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS