



UMLAZI DIGITAL CENTRE

THE KZN LEGISLATURE CONDUCTED AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE MKRI UMLAZI DIGITAL CENTRE, SITUATED AT MANGOSUTHU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY... SEE PAGE 2.

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"The knowledge hub for economic growth in KZN"

This newsletter highlights the key events and strategic engagements undertaken by the Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI) during June 2026.

The activities align with the institute's mission of advancing research-driven solutions, skills development, digital innovation, and socio-economic empowerment in KwaZulu-Natal.



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THE KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE OVERSIGHT VISIT

The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature conducted an oversight visit to the uMlazi Digital Centre, situated at Mangosuthu University of Technology, as part of a provincial initiative to assess the progress, effectiveness, and overall impact of projects implemented to benefit the local community of uMlazi. The visit provided an opportunity for Members of the Legislature to engage with project stakeholders, review the centre's operations, and evaluate how the facility is contributing to digital inclusion, skills development, and economic empowerment within the community. The delegation also received updates on the centre's achievements, challenges, and future plans aimed at enhancing access to technology and digital learning opportunities.

WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY



The Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI) participated in the World Hydrography Day 2026 celebrations that took place from 19–21 June in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. Through its presence at the Maritime School of Excellence and the N-Shed Terminal exhibition, MKRI showcased its commitment to advancing research, innovation, skills development, and stakeholder engagement in support of South Africa's Blue Economy.

NOKUSA DISABILITY WORKSHOP



MKRI exhibited at the Nokusa Disability Workshop hosted by Nokusa Support for people living with disability at the Durban Stable Theatre. The workshop brought together entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and community leaders to share valuable insights into opportunities available for persons with disabilities. Through discussions on entrepreneurship, skills development, mentorship, and funding opportunities, attendees gained practical knowledge and encouragement to pursue their goals and unlock their potential.

ZARIA RECORDS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE GALA DINNER

Dr Thandeka Ellenson, CEO of MKRI, delivered the keynote address at the Zaria Records and Information Management Conference Gala Dinner on 4 June 2026, focusing on building intelligent organisations through sustainable governance and digital innovation. She encouraged leaders to embrace digital transformation, adapt to change, and strengthen organisational relevance in a rapidly evolving environment. Her address also highlighted the continued importance of human intelligence and ethical leadership alongside emerging technologies, and the role of technology in improving efficient data and information management.



DEEP YOUTH SKILLS PROGRAMME



The Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI), in partnership with Valhalla Arts, KZN Treasury & KZN Growth Fund, successfully hosted the Disability Economic Empowerment Programme Youth Skills and Capacity Building Expo at the MKRI Conference Centre. The Expo brought together entrepreneurs, persons with disabilities, community members, and key stakeholders to promote skills development, entrepreneurship, economic inclusion, and empowerment. The programme featured inspiring talks, a book launch highlighting the experiences of persons with disabilities, and exhibitions showcasing funding opportunities, business support services, and community development initiatives. The event reinforced MKRI's commitment to fostering an inclusive economy and empowering communities through knowledge, collaboration, and opportunity.

YOUTH DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP MASTERCLASS

Moses Kotane Research Institute hosted the Youth Digital Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Master Class in Durban, providing a dynamic platform for young people to engage with professionals, entrepreneurs, and key stakeholders committed to youth development and economic growth. The programme focused on fostering digital skills, entrepreneurial thinking, and meaningful connections that can unlock future opportunities. Through insightful discussions and collaborative engagement, participants gained valuable perspectives on innovation, employment, and navigating an increasingly digital world. The Master Class forms part of ongoing efforts to empower youth with the knowledge, networks, and confidence needed to thrive in the digital economy and contribute to a stronger, more inclusive South Africa.



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1976 YOUTH UPRISING COMMEMORATION



The Moses Kotane Research Institute participated in the 50th Anniversary of the 1976 Youth Uprising Commemoration hosted by the Office of the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal at the Durban University of Technology (Sport Centre). The event honoured the bravery and sacrifice of the youth of 1976 while reflecting on their enduring legacy in shaping South Africa's democracy.

The commemoration brought together government leaders, stakeholders, and young people to engage on issues of youth development, entrepreneurship, skills development, and economic participation. The event served as a platform to inspire and empower young people to become active contributors to the province's growth and development. As part of the exhibition programme, MKRI showcased its research capabilities, digital centres, and skills development initiatives aimed at advancing innovation, evidence-based decision-making, and socio-economic development across KwaZulu-Natal. The Institute also engaged with attendees on opportunities that support youth empowerment and entrepreneurship.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

To commemorate Youth Day, the Moses Kotane Research Institute, in partnership with BRICS Student Commission, DUT & GBWCCI hosted a Youth Entrepreneurship Workshop at The Moses Kotane Conference Centre. The event brought together young people with business professionals, leaders, and mentors to teach them about business growth, local innovation, and the use of current digital tools such as artificial intelligence (AI).

The event aimed to assist young people think like entrepreneurs, build support networks, and take action to tackle local issues. Along with business insights, the speakers provided practical advice on how to navigate the job market responsibly, covering everything , creating professional networks and distinguishing out to potential employers.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MKRI STAFF YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION HELD AT THE MKRI CONFERENCE CENTRE, THEMED “1976 RETRO” - COMMEMORATING THE 50 YEARS SINCE THE 1976 YOUTH UPRISINGS

