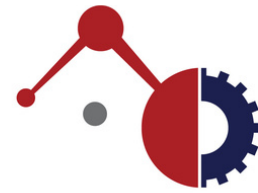


MKRI MONTHLY

July 2026 Issue



**Moses Kotane
Research Institute**

Research · Innovation · Excellence



**CELLPHONE REPAIR SKILLS PROGRAMME,
GRADUATION CEREMONY...
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Top News

- GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CELLPHONE REPAIR SKILLS PROGRAMME
- PROVINCIAL HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC) INDUCTION PROGRAMME
- CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

"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 July 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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EDTEA MEC'S BUDGET VOTE 4 SPEECH

The Moses Kotane Research Institute, alongside other provincial entities, proudly showcased its work at the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature.

The exhibition formed part of the department's showcase, where EDTEA MEC, Rev. Musa Zondi, delivered the 2026/27 Budget Vote 4 Speech, outlining the department's strategic priorities to drive inclusive economic growth, investment, innovation, tourism development, environmental sustainability, and job creation across KwaZulu-Natal.

MKRI's exhibition highlighted the Institute's innovation and skills development initiatives that continue to support economic development in the province.



CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



MKRI recently participated in the five-day Climate Change Conference hosted by Durban University of Technology Business School. The conference brought together researchers, policymakers, industry experts, and global thought leaders to exchange knowledge, share innovative research, and discuss sustainable solutions to climate change challenges. Representing MKRI, Dr. Nomfundo Zulu presented three research papers, contributing to critical discussion on climate change, sustainable development, and evidence-based recommendations. MKRI's participation reflects the Institute's commitment to producing high-quality research that informs policy and contributes to addressing socio-economic priorities of KwaZulu-Natal.

PSC MEETING



The Moses Kotane Research Institute hosted & engaged in the 5th PSC meeting to discuss the Tourism Master Plan proposed Implementation Framework with different provincial stakeholders.

PROVINCIAL HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC) INDUCTION PROGRAMME

Dr Thandeka Ellenson, Chief Executive Officer of the Moses Kotane Research Institute, has been appointed by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Hon AT Ntuli, to serve on the Provincial Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) Committee for Science, Technology and Innovation for the 2026-2030 term.

During the Provincial HRDC Induction Programme, Dr Ellenson led the orientation of newly appointed members of the HRDC Executive Committee, providing an overview of the Provincial Human Resource Development Strategy and the Master Skills Plan. She also presented evidence-based insights from several MKRI research studies, highlighting key findings on skills in demand, the informal economy, the immigration economy, graduate unemployment, and the economic priorities across KwaZulu-Natal's district municipalities. These insights will contribute to informed decision-making and strategic human capital development across the province.



GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CELLPHONE REPAIR SKILLS PROGRAMME



The Moses Kotane Research Institute, in partnership with HCLS ICT Learning Academy, the Department of Social Development, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), and CHIETA, successfully hosted the Graduation Ceremony for the Cell Phone Repair Skills Programme.

The ceremony brought together graduates, community members, and key stakeholders to celebrate the achievements of youth who have successfully completed their technical training. Aligning with the spirit of Nelson Mandela Day, the programme focused on practical skills for real impact, building sustainable businesses, and empowering youth to change lives and strengthen communities. The event reinforced MKRI's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive economy and creating bright futures through collaboration, education, and economic opportunity.

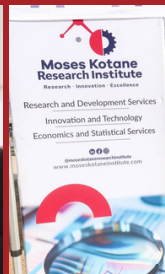
2026 MANUFACTURING INDABA

The Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI) recently participated in the 2026 Manufacturing Indaba. The event convened industry leaders, investors, development finance institutions, policymakers, and researchers to explore the future of manufacturing and industrial development in South Africa.

The Indaba provided valuable insights into key trends shaping the manufacturing sector, including localisation, green manufacturing, digital transformation, innovative financing, and skills development. These insights will strengthen MKRI's evidence-based research, policy advisory, and innovation initiatives aimed at advancing industrial growth and economic development across KwaZulu-Natal. In addition, the strategic stakeholder engagements undertaken during the conference created opportunities for future collaboration and knowledge exchange. The lessons and best practices shared have the potential to support MKRI in adopting innovative project management approaches.



OSS/DDM CABINET DAY IMBIZO



Moses Kotane Research Institute proudly participated at the OSS/DDM Cabinet Day Imbizo at the Groutville Sportsgrounds in the iLembe District, a program led by the KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Hon. Thamsanqa Ntuli. The event focused on direct engagement between government leaders and communities, including inspections of development projects, assessments of government programmes, and discussions with residents and service providers. The public session allowed community members to raise concerns, with leaders outlining actions to address service delivery and social issues.

MKRI exhibited on-site, where it actively showcased its diverse portfolio of services and programmes. Through this platform, the Institute engaged directly with community members, offering insights into its work while fostering opportunities for collaboration and the exchange of knowledge.

18TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT & SOE CONFERENCE

Dr Thandeka Ellenson, CEO of the Moses Kotane Research Institute, addressed public sector women leaders at the 18th Annual Leadership Development for Women in Government & SOE Conference.

Her keynote focused on digital transformation, future-ready leadership, and skills development, emphasizing that true leadership is forged during adversity. She encouraged women leaders to embrace resilience while balancing the demands of both personal and professional life.



UNIZULU STUDENT INNOVATION COMPETITION AWARDS



Dr Thandeka Ellenson, Chief Executive Officer of the Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI), delivered the keynote address at the UNIZULU Student Innovation Competition Awards. During the awards ceremony, Dr. Ellenson spoke on "Innovation capacity development in KZN," highlighting key strategies to foster and sustain local talent. The event brought together academic leaders and industry experts to champion regional growth and grassroots innovation. The platform celebrated brilliant student projects across crucial sectors, including food security, climate change, indigenous knowledge systems, and regional economic development. These creative solutions will play a vital role in shaping sustainable communities and driving technological growth throughout KwaZulu-Natal.

WORLD ENVIROMENTAL DAY COMMEMORATION AND THE LAUNCH OF THE INVASIE ALIEN SPECIES

The Moses Kotane Research Institute proudly participated in the World Environment Day Commemoration and the launch of the Invasive Alien Species Jobs Programme, held under the theme, "Inspired by Nature. For Climate Change. For Our Future."

The event was led by KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, within the Zululand District Municipality. As part of the commemoration, MKRI showcased its programmes and initiatives, highlighted its achievements, and engaged with stakeholders and community members on the various opportunities and development programmes available to benefit local communities. The Institute's participation reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and inclusive economic growth across KwaZulu-Natal.



OTP YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES EXHIBITION

The Moses Kotane Research Institute participated in the Youth Development Programmes Exhibition hosted by the KZN office of the Premier, held at Ward 89, Umlazi T Community Hall.

The exhibition brought together government departments and stakeholders committed to empowering young people through access to information, skills development, education, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. MKRI engaged with community members by showcasing its digital centre initiatives, which promote digital literacy, innovation and inclusive access to technology.

MKRI remains committed to supporting youth development by creating pathways that empower communities through knowledge, digital skills and innovation.





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TOPICS:

- LAUNCHING RESEARCH
- DEVELOPING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL
- DEVELOPING A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT
- RESEARCH BACKGROUND
- THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
- PRELIMINARY LITERATURE REVIEW FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL
- RESEARCH METHODS
- RESEARCH METHODS PART2
- ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS
- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

RESEARCH THURSDAY



Facilitator

CLASSES AVAILABLE ON
MKRI'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Dr Mthunzi Khonjelwayo



EVERY THURSDAY



13H00 - 14H00



MICROSOFT TEAMS

JOIN US WEEKLY FOR INSIGHTFUL RESEARCH SESSIONS,
KNOWLEDGE SHARING, AND MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS.

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RESEARCH

• INNOVATION

• EXCELLENCE