

### **Durban's Climate Change Summit – Industry's Green Growth**

eThekweni Municipality became the first city in Africa to sign a Partnership Declaration with local & national business leadership, plus the United Nations to act towards the mitigation & adaptation in respect of climate change. The signing ceremony took place at the city's Climate Change Summit – Industry Day aimed at business, yesterday.

Hosted by the Durban Investment Promotion Agency (DIPA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), and the National Business Initiative (NBI), the Summit, themed "Industry's Green Growth Day" aimed to raise awareness of the anticipated effects of climate change, the challenges and risks it presents and finally the opportunities that can be exploited, amongst KZN's private sector. The event was supported by KPMG, The Durban Chamber of Commerce, plus Cullinan & Assoc. as environmental law specialists.

The Summit provided business with the opportunity to learn from one another's experiences in this field, identify ways to play an even more active role in addressing climate change, as well as work together with international experts in identifying further green investment opportunities within the region.

The goal of the day was to disseminate the latest findings on the science of climate change and its impacts at international, national and provincial scales; introduce international & national best practice and perspectives; understand how South African businesses are dealing with climate change issues, determine how organisations can play a role in addressing new challenges & opportunities and; contribute to the UNIDO, DIPA's & eThekweni Municipality's local compact partnerships to mitigate Climate Change.

eThekweni Municipality Mayor, Cllr Obed Mlaba, welcomed the initiative and said that the partnership was long overdue. He said, "Durban, as an African coastal city, is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which are likely to affect the eThekweni Municipality's infrastructure and our ability to deliver on our sustainable development objectives. Climate change is also likely to affect industries, particularly those with complex supply chain or production systems. However, there are also a number of opportunities that will result from increased demand in more environmentally efficient technologies and production processes."

This Summit presented the opportunity for business to contribute to the Municipal Climate Protection Programme which includes a number of projects and interventions aimed at putting in place proactive responses that will ensure a resilient and sustainable city in a changing global climate. Furthermore, this will call for deeper understanding and interrogation of climate change by business from both a risk and opportunity perspective.

Industry's Green Growth Day showcased South African and international best practice examples of investments in climate change mitigation opportunities.

Acting CEO, DIPA, Mr Russell Curtis concluded, "While some KZN businesses are already investing in this area, there is still unexploited potential to promote synergies and leverage more business opportunities. If we can generate a more immediate understanding of climate change challenges & opportunities for business, plus help develop a greater partnership approach with government, then we are confident that new investments will flow, whilst the environment enjoys balanced utilisation & protection."

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