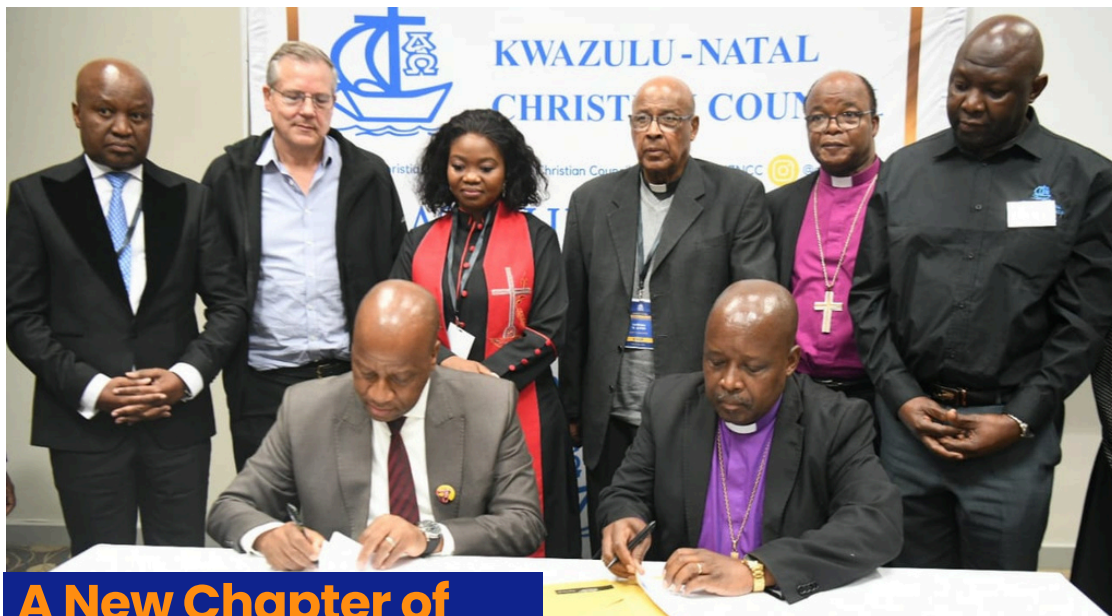


# NEWSLETTER

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Feature Article



## A New Chapter of Collaboration: KZNCC – Premier's Office MOU Signing

The KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council (KZNCC) held its 11th Triennial Assembly on 28 August 2025 at the Garden Court Hotel, South Beach, Durban — a momentous gathering that reaffirmed the Council's prophetic mission for peace, justice, and development across the province.

The Assembly brought together a diverse range of voices and partners including representatives from the South African Council of Churches (SACC), government departments, business leaders, funding partners, traditional leaders, and social activists — all united under one purpose: to reflect, reimagine, and renew faith-driven action for a just KwaZulu-Natal...

[Read More on page 3](#)

*Pictured :- (from top left to right) :- Apostle C. Dhlomo (CFCI Founder & Senior Pastor), Dr (Rev) Francois Neethling (NG Kerk), Apostle L. Magwaza (Provincial Chaplain), Cardinal W. Napier (KZNCLG Chairperson), Bishop N. Ndwandwe (Anglican Diocese of Natal) and Dr D. Dziva (KZNCC Chief Executive Officer) . Seated:- Honourable Premier, Mr T. Ntuli (KZN Premier) and Presiding Bishop N. Myaka (EXCO Chairperson)*



*Pictured :- Pastor V. Marion (uMDCC Chairperson), Bishop N. Ndwandwe (Anglican Diocese of Natal) , Apostle C. Dhlomo (CFCI Senior Pastor) and Bishop N. Zondi (KZNCC Executive Secretary) during the Triennial Assembly Networking Session*

### Strengthening Partnerships Through MOUs

KZNCC continues to expand its impact through key MOUs that strengthen collaboration across faith, government, and academia. These include:

1. **Amakhosi** – Promoting social cohesion and community mobilisation.
2. **Department of EDTEA** – Advancing socio-economic development and community empowerment.
3. **Department of Community Safety & Liaison** – Supporting crime-prevention and safety initiatives.
4. **KZN Office of the Premier** – Aligning provincial priorities on social cohesion and interfaith collaboration.
5. **UKZN School of Religion, Philosophy & Classics** – Strengthening ecumenical research and clergy development.
6. **UKZN School of Agriculture** – Advancing food security and sustainable agriculture.
7. **Ujamaa Centre** – Promoting contextual theology and gender justice programmes.
8. **Uthingo Network** – Providing psychosocial support and community healing.
9. **Institute for Healing of Memories** – Facilitating trauma healing and reconciliation.

These partnerships collectively advance KZNCC's mission: **For a Just and Peaceful KZN.**



The Premier and Bishop Myaka exchange a handshake as they affirm the newly formalised MOU partnership.



# EDITOR'S NOTE



**Xola Nkabinde**  
Editor/Content Creator

FIRST EDITION

## Dear Readers

It gives us great joy to present the **first edition** of *The Ecumenical Voice* (TEV)—the **official newsletter** of the **KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council (KZNCC)**. This publication serves as a shared platform to tell our collective story as people of faith working together for a just and peaceful KwaZulu-Natal.

The name "*The Ecumenical Voice*" was chosen to reflect our unity as the Body of Christ — diverse in expression, yet one in purpose. It symbolises the collective voice of churches, partners, and communities speaking out for justice, peace, and hope across our province.

In this edition, we highlight the **11th Triennial Assembly** and **2025 Annual General Meeting**, the **moving farewell celebration of Rev. O.T. Dlamini**, and vibrant district updates under "*Voices from the Districts*" / "*District Dispatches*". You will also find features such as the Servant Leader Profile, interfaith reflections, and updates from KZNCC programmes — all aimed at keeping you informed and inspired.

As *The Ecumenical Voice* grows, we invite **District Ecumenical Leaders** and partners to **submit their stories, photos, and reports timeously** for inclusion. The newsletter will be published **monthly and quarterly**, ensuring that readers stay abreast of developments and connected to the heartbeat of the ecumenical movement across KwaZulu-Natal. For contributions, feedback, or story ideas, please contact Ms Xola Nkabinde at [xolin@kzncc.org.za](mailto:xolin@kzncc.org.za).

We are grateful to **Bishop Nathi Zondi**, our **Editor-in-Chief**, for providing guidance and oversight; to **Dr Douglas Dziva**, the **Chief Executive Officer**, for his strategic support; and to all our contributors who make this publication possible.

May *The Ecumenical Voice* continue to inform, inspire, and unite us — reminding all who read it that our shared mission remains clear: "*That they may be one.*" (John 17:21).

Warm regards,

**Ms Xola Nkabinde**

*Editor & Content Creator – The Ecumenical Voice*  
*KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council*



## 11TH TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY

A Celebration of Faith, Unity and Action

(Continues from page 1)...

The event's energy was brilliantly steered by Mr. Alex Mthiyane, the renowned Gagasi FM radio personality, who served as the Master of Ceremonies (MC). His engaging presence, eloquence, and wit kept the day vibrant and seamlessly guided the programme from one inspiring moment to the next.

One of the most memorable highlights came when **Inkosi Zuzifa Buthelezi** graced the gathering — truly marking “the cherry on top of the cake.” His words of encouragement and cultural blessing symbolised the importance of collaboration between **faith and traditional leadership** in addressing the moral and social challenges facing communities today.

### OUTCOMES OF THE ASSEMBLY:

The Assembly featured five thematic commissions, for year 2026 program areas:

1. **Governance, Accountability and Corruption**
2. **Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods**
3. **Social Cohesion, Peacebuilding and Moral Regeneration**
4. **Gender Justice and Psycho-Social Support**
5. **Youth Empowerment, Education and Leadership Development**
6. **Advocacy and Healing of Memories crosscutting**

Through these commissions, delegates engaged in deep reflection and dialogue, producing key resolutions to guide KZNCC's strategic direction for the 2026–2028 triennium.

As the Assembly concluded, there was a palpable sense of renewal and collective responsibility. The event reaffirmed that the work of the Church when united with government, civil society, traditional leadership, academia and businesses, remains a powerful force for transformation in KwaZulu-Natal.

## THE KZN ECUMENICAL VOICE

Churches Speaking as One for a Just and Peaceful

## 2024/5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Since year 1996



*Pictured :- Some of the newly elected Executive Committee Members: **Bishop N. Zondi** (Secretary), **Ds L. Meyer** (additional member), **Presiding Bishop N. Myaka** (Chairperson), **Major (Major P. Ziqubu)**—additional member's proxy) and **Professor P. Stegen** (Treasurer)*

At the 29th Annual General Meeting held on 29 August 2025 at the Garden Court Hotel, Durban, the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council (KZNCC) elected its new Executive Committee (EXCO) for the 2025–2028 term.

Join us as we congratulate all members elected, and look forward to their service in deepening unity, accountability, and mission across the province.



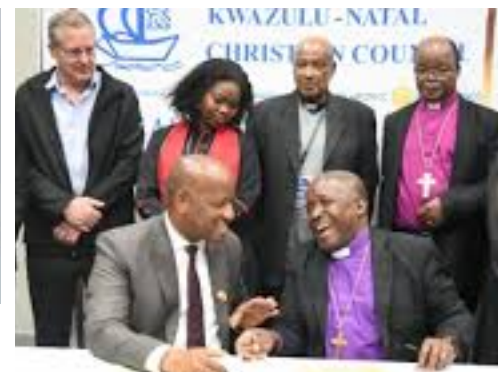
- **Presiding Bishop Nkosingathi Myaka** was **re-elected** as Chairperson, and Bishop Nathi Zondi returns as Executive Secretary for a third term, signaling continuity of experienced leadership.
- Two newly elected female clergy leaders—**Ds. L. Meyer** (NG Kerk) and **Major P. Ziqubu** (Salvation Army)—now join Apostle S. Magubane and Archbishop L. Cele in the EXCO, further enriching gender representation and broadening the Council's ecumenical voice.
- The **EXCO has been expanded to include chairpersons from all 11 district offices**, following the finalization of establishing 11 District Ecumenical Offices. This ensures that district voices are formally included in provincial decisions



A glimpse of the exclusive digital invitation shared with distinguished attendees



*Pictured (left to right):- KZNCC Members during the 2025 AGM*



A joyful moment unfolds as the Premier and Bishop Myaka share an inside joke amid the MOU formalities



# UPDATES FROM DISTRICTS

iLembe District Christian Council (IDCC)

## 1. A Legend Honoured

Farewell Celebration for **Rev. O.T. Dlamini** — A Legend Honoured  
The iLembe District Christian Council ended August 2025 with a heartfelt farewell for Rev. O.T. Dlamini, a pioneering clergywoman and former KZNCC EXCO member.

Best known for her Sunday School programme on Ukhozi FM, Rev. Dlamini's farewell drew over 1,000 people from various denominations and sectors.

## 2. Pastors Bring Prayer to the Classroom

In the first two weeks of October, pastors from KwaDukuza embarked on a powerful spiritual mission visiting local schools to pray& encourage Matric learners and students of all grades.

## 3. Mandeni Prayer Gathering for Matric Learners

On 16 October, a special interdenominational prayer session was hosted at Sibusisiwe Hall in Mandeni, uniting pastors, learners, and parents under one purpose—to lift the Class of 2025 before God. The gathering was graced by Councillor Mdlalose, the Mayor of Mandeni, who commended the clergy for their consistent presence in the community. The event radiated hope and unity, marking a meaningful moment of partnership between the church and local government.

## 4. Iron Sharpens Iron – Empowering Church Leaders

The spirit of collaboration and growth was alive at the “Iron Sharpens Iron” Workshop held on 8 October at Mdoniville Hall, KwaDukuza. Church leaders from diverse backgrounds came together to share insights, encourage one another, and strengthen their collective mission.

## 5. Faith Action On Climate Change in KwaDukuza

On 17 October, the IDCC Chairperson joined community leaders and experts for a Climate Change Conference hosted by the Mayor of KwaDukuza, Councillor Gumede. The one-day event was on environmental stewardship, sustainability, and the church's prophetic voice in caring for creation. The gathering underscored that protecting the planet is not only a civic duty but a sacred responsibility.



Pictured :- Guest Speaker, **Presiding Bishop Nkosinathi Myaka** (KZNCC Chairperson) as he praised Rev. O.T Dlamini for her lifelong service



Pictured 2-3:- **Chairperson, Apostle S. Magubane** at the 'Iron sharpens iron' event



Inserts:- **Publications from iLanga Newspaper (1-3 September 2025)**



Inserts:- **Matriculants** gather to be equipped on moral values, ethics, anti-drugs session during the **Mandeni Matric Prayer event**



## UPDATES FROM DISTRICTS *continued...*

### *King Cetshwayo District Christian Council*

#### 1. King Cetshwayo District Celebrates Human Rights Honour

KZNCC and King Cetshwayo District Christian Council (KCDCC) joined in celebration with **Rev. Mbhekiseni Mavuso**, who was honoured by the **South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)** during its **30th Anniversary Celebration** held on **29 October 2025 in Sandton, Johannesburg**.

The district noted the significance of this acknowledgment, reflecting the ongoing role of faith and community advocacy in addressing social issues. For KZNCC, this recognition highlights the Council's commitment to social justice and reinforces its role as a platform where faith leaders actively engage in promoting human rights and community well-being. Mavuso and Rural Network work closely with KZNCC on land program, Human Right and Justice issues.



*Pictured:- Bishop B.M Buthelezi, (KCDCC Chairperson), Mr M. Mavuso (Award recipient) and Mr M. Nyuswa (KZNCC Programmes Director)*

#### 2. Bishop Buthelezi Appointed as International Observer in Malawi

The Chairperson of the King Cetshwayo District Christian Council (KCDCC), Bishop B.M. Buthelezi, served as accredited International Observer for Malawi's 2025 General Elections.

This prestigious appointment highlights Bishop Buthelezi's growing influence and commitment to promoting democracy, transparency, and good governance across the continent. The KZNCC family celebrates this milestone as a proud moment for both the Church and the province, demonstrating the vital role of faith leaders in safeguarding justice and ethical leadership beyond South Africa's borders.



*International Observers in Malawi during the 2025 General Elections*

#### 3. Prayer for Learners in Gingindlovu Schools

On 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2025, members of the King Cetshwayo District Christian Council (KCDCC) led by Ps. P.B Mntambo, held a special **Exam Prayer Session** across several schools in Gingindlovu, including **Amatigulu High School, Ingobamakhosi High School, and Mathubeszwe High School**.

#### 4. King Cetshwayo DCC in Action

The King Cetshwayo District Christian Council co-hosted a SAPS Prayer for Safety on 10 October 2025, bringing together faith leaders and law-enforcement in united prayer for peace and protection across our communities.

In a parallel initiative, women clergy leaders took part in a leadership workshop facilitated by Mayoress to Cllr. Xolani Ngwezi, Mayor of the uMhlathuze Local Municipality. The workshop focused on strengthening women's leadership voices within both church and civic spheres.



*Some Members of the District Clergy pictured with Female Police Officers during the Peacebuilding and Community Engagement*



*KCDCC Women Clergy Leaders during a moment of reflection with the First Lady (Mayoress) of The City of uMhlathuze Local Municipality*

## UPDATES FROM DISTRICTS *continued...*

*uThukela District Christian Council–*

*Compiled by: Rev. T.J Hlongwane (UDCC Secretary)*

### Membership Overview

The Uthukela District Christian Council (UDCC) comprises three local municipalities, each with active fraternals driving ecumenical unity and community outreach:

- Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality (ILM): 7 Fraternals
- Okhahlamba Local Municipality (OLM): 2 Fraternals
- Alfred Duma Local Municipality (ADLM): 7 Fraternals

### KZNCC District Development Model Workshop

On 17 July 2025, the KZNCC Programmes Director, Mr. Mxolisi Nyuswa, facilitated a District Development Model (DDM) Workshop for the Uthukela clergy at the Uthukela District Municipality Offices in Ladysmith. The session strengthened local church leaders' understanding of collaborative governance and faith-based community engagement.

### 2025 Matric Prayer Campaign

In October 2025, several Matric Prayer Services were hosted across schools, community halls, and mountains to uplift and bless the Class of 2025. Notable venues included Ubulinga High (16 Oct), Tshanibezwe High (17 Oct), Wembezi Circuit (17 Oct), Zakheni High (18 Oct), Mzimela High (19 Oct), Gqushangani Mountain (19 Oct), Ukhahlamba High (20 Oct), and Umtshezi High (22 Oct).

### District Highlights

- **District Executive Committee Meeting:** Held on 19 September 2025 at the Uthukela District Municipal Boardroom.
- **Community Engagement:** Conducted in Ward 18, Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality.
- **Cabinet OSS Visit:** uThukela hosted the Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) Cabinet visit on 29 October 2025.
- **Sunday School Teachers' Training:** Facilitated by Rev. O.T. Dlamini on 9 August 2025 at Wembezi Circuit.
- **Regional Home Affairs Awards:** Hosted by ILM in Estcourt celebrating service excellence.
- **Christian Council Sports Day:** Held in Bergville (OLM), Ogade Ward 7, under Ward Councillor Rev. D.R. Hlongwane, promoting unity through sport.
- **Gabriel Foundation Clergy Awards:** Hosted by Okhahlamba, featuring American guests supporting clergy recognition and development.



*Some Members of the District Clergy at the District Development Model session with Facilitator, Bishop N. Zondi*



*Pic 2-3: District Sports Day enhancing Social cohesion*



*UDCC initiated a Matric Awards ceremony and Prayer in partnership with the District Department of Education*



*Interdenominational representation of clergy at the Clergy Awards ceremony*



*Rev. S. Thusi (Coordinator) facilitated the Clergy Awards ceremony*



*Sunday School Teachers Training session with Rev. OT Dlamini as guest facilitator*



## UPDATES FROM DISTRICTS *continued...*

### *Zululand District Christian Council*

#### **Zululand DCC Empowers and Unites Communities**

From August to October 2025, the Zululand District Christian Council facilitated a series of community activations focused on women's empowerment, healing, and fostering unity.

On **9 August (Women's Day)**, a vibrant **Women's Empowerment Programme** took place at the Evangelical Church under the theme "Being a Woman of Proverbs 31." Discussions focused on positive girl-child upbringing, skills development, and reviving lost cultural languages. Women were encouraged to spend more time mentoring girls, and prayers were offered for families and against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The event also featured contributions from Disaster Management, RTI (Road Traffic Inspectorate), and the Department of Health, promoting community safety and wellness.

From 1–7 September, the council hosted two healing sessions, one addressing the lingering emotional effects of COVID-19, and another focusing on awareness and inclusion of persons with Albinism.

A week later, on 21 September, an **Interdenominational Women in Leadership Workshop** was held at Apostolic Faith Mission, equipping women clergy and lay leaders with tools for effective service and unity across denominations.

On 12 October 2025, the DCC facilitated a **mediation meeting between traditional leaders and the community**, resulting in progress toward a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen collaboration.



*Pic 1-2: Interdenominational Women in Leadership Workshop*



*Women's Empowerment Programme at the Evangelical Church*

## INTRODUCING THE NEW FACES OF LEADERSHIP IN THE KZNCC EXCO (2025–2028)—

In a spirit of renewal and unity, the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council (KZNCC) is proud to introduce the newly elected Executive Committee (EXCO), elected during the 29th Annual General Meeting held in Durban. The 2025–2028 term ushers in both continuity and innovation, blending seasoned leadership with fresh voices from across the province's districts.

"This EXCO reflects the heartbeat of the Church across KwaZulu-Natal ensuring gender, youth, rural & urban mix working together towards peace, justice, and reconciliation," said **Dr. Douglas Dziva**, KZNCC CEO.

### Summary of the Role of EXCO (as per the KZNCC Constitution):

The Executive Committee (EXCO) provides strategic oversight and ensures the effective implementation of KZNCC's policies, programmes, and decisions. It acts on behalf of Council between Assembly meetings, supports governance and administrative leadership, oversees financial and organisational accountability, and guides the work of the Secretariat to ensure alignment with the Council's mission and objectives.

"The diversity of this team is our strength," said **Bishop Myaka**. "We look forward to serving together as one body, amplifying the ecumenical voice in every corner of our province", he added.



**Chairperson**, Presiding Bishop Nkosinathi Myaka



**Executive Secretary**  
Bishop Nathi Zondi



**Deputy Chairperson**  
Major Priscilla Ziqubu



**Treasurer**  
Professor Phillip Stegen



**King Cetshwayo**  
Bishop Bhekithemba Buthelezi



**Harry Gwala**  
Bishop Andile Mngcwengi



**eThekwin**  
Bishop Linda Mandindi



**iLembe**  
Apostle Smangele Magubane



**Zululand**  
Bishop Willie Maisela



**uMgungundlovu**  
Pastor Vidyl Marion



**Amajuba**  
Bishop B. Khumalo



**uThukela**  
Moderator Bongumusa Buthelezi



**uMkhanyakude**  
Bishop Ezrom D.Mbonambi



**uGu**  
Archbishop Lungisile Cele



**Executive Member**  
Ds Lerisa Meyer



**KZNCC Property**  
Reverend Georg Scriba



**uMzinyathi**  
Bishop Sicelo Sikhosana



**Management Committee**  
**Chief Executive Officer)**  
Dr Douglas Dziva



**Management Committee**  
**Programmes' Director**  
Mr Mxolisi Nyuswa



**Management Committee**  
**Finance Manager**  
Ms Portia Louis

*For A Just and Peaceful KwaZulu Natal*



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Official invitation:-** We invite you to participate on the following events:

## **1.KZN Church Leaders' Group Virtual Meetings**

Every Tuesday at 07:00 AM to 08:30 AM via Zoom

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81622571630pwd=s0g8stsMR1mKKWnwbHQdxsNpeyJxOp.1>

## **2. Launch of Peacebuilding Initiative**

Date : 04 February 2026

Venue : Garden Court Hotel – South Beach, Durban

Contact Person: Bishop B.M Buthelezi [bishopbuthelezibm@gmail.com](mailto:bishopbuthelezibm@gmail.com)

## **3. KZNCC Christmas Holiday Office Closure**

Kindly be advised that the KZNCC offices will close on 22 December 2025 at 12:00 and will officially reopen on 05 January 2026 at 08:00.

### **Our Operating Hours for 2026**

KZNCC operating hours for 2026 will remain as follows:

- **Mondays to Thursdays:** 08:00 – 16:00 **Lunch Break:** 13:00 – 14:00
- **Fridays:** 08:00 – 15:30 **Lunch Break:** 13:00 – 13:30

## TRAINING WORKSHOP AND EVENTS

### **Healing of Memories Workshop – Cohort 1**

Date : 19 – 21 January 2026

uMgungundlovu District

### **Action Research Preparatory Work for Gender Program**

Date : January 2026

### **Digital Skills Roll-Out – Month 1 (Coastal Districts)**

Date : 27–30 January 2026

eThekwinj, iLembe, Ugu, King Cetshwayo

## ON THE GROUND: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Presiding Bishop N. Myaka represented KZNCC as Chairperson at the funeral of the legendary Rev. B.K. Dlodla (UCCSA).



Senior Church Leaders extend prayers of blessing to Premier T. Ntuli during the Reception-Gala Dinner welcoming Archbishop T. Makgoba



Inter-Religious Relations: As part of its vision for a peaceful and prosperous province, KZNCC, in partnership with KZNIRC, hosted the Interfaith Summit under the theme "Building the KwaZulu-Natal We Want," where Bishop Nathi Zondi, Chair of KZNIRC, addressed attendees.



Pic 1:- KZNCC Executive Secretary, Bishop N. Zondi with Church leaders from Ugu as part of the District Model facilitation in August.

Pic 2:- Food Security Project Implementation at Bishopstowe Farm: A KZNCC Partnership with the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the UKZN School of Agriculture



South African Council of Churches (SACC) visit by the General Secretary, Reverend M. Molo and team.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS...



Pic 1 : Children and Youth Programme: Capacity-building session in progress.

Pic 2 : Stakeholders in Dialogue: Participants of the Peacebuilding Consultative Meeting.

Pic 3 : KZNCC Stakeholders' Engagement with His Worship, the Mayor Cllr M. Thebolla and the Hon. Madam Speaker of Msunduzi Local Municipality

Pic 4-5 : KZNCC Women's Desk Executive Members at Elangeni Hotel, Durban, following their presentation to the Electoral Commission.

Pic 6-7 : KZNCC in partnership with the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and UKZN commemorated World Aids Day at KZNCC Multipurpose Hall

Pic 8-9 : Deputy Chairperson, Major P. Ziqubu welcomed Prof. Joerg Rieger from USA for an Engaging Dialogue with uMgungundlovu Church Leaders



Pic 1 : Super Sunday School from different churches at Ilembe District

Pic 2 : Mediation on Land Matters with Farmers with in Eshowe

Pic 3 : Training of Local farmers on chilli production at Bishopstowe Farm in PMB

Pic 4 : KZN Church leaders engaging on Gender Justice issues in Durban

Pic 5 : Prof. P. Denis engaging leaders on racial integration and church unity talks

Pic 6 : Inkosi Shange from Eshowe receives the certificate on behalf of the Nkanini Community for being Blue Community Compliant



# PUBLICATION TEAM



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Editor-in-Chief

*Communications Committee Chairperson*



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Dr Douglas Dziva

Oversight & Strategic Endorser

*KZNCC Chief Executive Officer*

### KZNCC Vision

For a Just and Peaceful KwaZulu-Natal.

### KZNCC Mission

To promote unity among churches and faith communities, support social justice and peacebuilding initiatives, and strengthen collaborative action on issues affecting communities across KwaZulu-Natal through advocacy, facilitation, and ecumenical engagement.