

MEDIA RELEASE

EMC Aquaculture and Fisheries Unit Host Capacity Building Workshop and Formulate Committee for the implementation of the Programme Projects.

[**Durban, 27 October 2023**] The EThekweni Maritime Cluster (EMC) Aquaculture and Fisheries Unit yesterday, 26/10/2023 convened a capacity building workshop and the formulation of the eThekweni Fisheries Committee that will oversee all the unit's projects.

The workshop was hosted at the EMC offices and had participants from Co-Ops/SMME in the aquaculture and fishing sector, around eThekweni as well as government departments such as EDTEA, Department of Education, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The purpose of this workshop was to brainstorm focus areas and form a committee that will oversee all of the programme's activities. Like previous strategic plans, this workshop was intended to guide the existing fishing community, aspiring candidates, and associated government department in fulfilling our mission to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery activities by advancing fisheries and aquaculture business science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

The EThekweni Maritime Cluster CEO Ms Zenzile Gwamanda speaking on the overall mission of the programme said "With this initiative we aim to advance the economic benefit of fisheries knowledge and strive to be the home society for all fishery disciplines in eThekweni. In that pursuit, EMC seeks to be recognized as the pre-eminent organization providing fisheries information to decision makers in all arenas. While fulfilling our vision, we will recruit and develop new fisheries professionals by offering learning and training opportunities crucial to maintaining a well-trained profession, support programs and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, and enhance the value of the fishing activities in eThekweni."

"I thank all participants for attending and contributing towards this initiative. We encourage businesses, government, and recreational fisherman to join in growing this sector for the benefit of our economy." Said Mr. Logan Moodley, EMC Aquaculture and Fisheries Committee chairman.

According to the EMC Aquaculture and Fisheries Unit's coordinator Mr Bheka Nembula, the workshop served as a build-up to a strategic planning session "that will speak to internal and external audiences and articulates who we are and what we do. It is meant to help us reach out to the fishing community within eThekweni, decision makers, and raise awareness of the benefits within the sector".

The challenges facing the sector are complex and will require working across traditional boundaries to identify and implement solutions. We look forward to achieving the goals set forth in this strategic plan and fulfilling our shared mission.

The First Aquaculture and Fisheries committee meeting will be held:

- Date: 09 November 2023
- Time: TBC
- Venue: 303 Anton Lembede Street, Durban Club Chambers, Suite 0702, Durban

ENDS

Directors: Emmanuel Ntshangase | Lance Pullan | Hazel Xulu | Captain Ian Rosario | Mervin Pillay | Sandile Khoza | Andile Dhlomo

ABOUT ETHEKWINI MARITIME CLUSTER

EThekwinini Maritime Cluster (EMC) is a non-profit company that was launched in 2009. The EMC provides a platform for collaborative engagement between different levels of government, state-owned enterprises, and the maritime community to implement programs of common interest that support the growth and improve the performance and competitiveness of the maritime industry.

EThekwinini Maritime Cluster is a Developmental institution premised upon the four pillars which are:

- Training and Skills Development
- Aquaculture and Fisheries Unit
- Enterprise and Supplier Development Programme
- Marine Manufacturing and Services
- Industry Promotion Unit

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