

# KZN's top businesses honoured in award event

## KAVITH HARRILALL

KZN's top businesses — which successfully battled through the recession and subsequent fragile economic recovery — were honoured last night at a premier business awards event in Durban.

Two Pietermaritzburg-based organisations scooped awards at the annual FNB KwaZulu-Natal Top Business Portfolio Awards.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife won the tourism award while the KZN Treasury (Finance Department) won the award for

a government department promoting socio-economic growth.

The event was aimed at celebrating the achievements of KZN's major businesses, while also promoting the province as a favoured investment destination.

Now in its fourth year, the event also marked the launch of the KZN Top Business Portfolio — a vital brand-building tool for local businesses.

The worthy winner of the Partnership award, the top award of the evening, was the ambitious public-private part-

nership between the eThekweni Municipality and KZN's automotive industry, the Hillcrest-based Durban Automotive Cluster (DAC).

The DAC has been running for eight years and is aimed at improving the competitiveness of the industry.

"The FNB KZN Top Business Awards enable us to showcase the many outstanding businesses and organisations that drive KwaZulu-Natal's vibrant economy," Portfolio publisher Lalita Dhasiar-Ventura said.

The results were audited by Morar In-

corporated, an independent management and professional services firm based in Pietermaritzburg.

Economic Development and Tourism MEC Mike Mabayukhulu highlighted the positive trends evident within the province's economy. He stressed the importance of promoting investment in KZN.

"... our trade strategy seeks greater integration with countries of the south. These new markets such as India and South-East Asia offer new opportunities for growth in trade, business and tourism," he said.



PHOTO: RAJESH JANTILAL  
HOD of KZN Treasury Smiso Magagulu (left) and Finance MEC Ina Cronje with the Treasury's award in the Government (promoting socio-economic growth) category, and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife CEO Dr Bandile Mkhize with his organisation's award in the Tourism category at the FNB KZN Top Business 2010 Awards at Durban's Eiangeni Hotel last night.

## The winners in each category

1. Agriculture: Tongaat Hulett
2. Mining and Quarrying: Richards Bay Minerals
3. Manufacturing: PFK Electronics
4. Utilities: Spring Lights Gas
5. Construction: Edison Power Group
6. Trade: McCarthy

7. Transport, Storage and Communication: Grindrod
8. Financial and Business Services: DRG Outsourcing
9. Social and Community Services: University of Kwazulu-Natal Graduate School of Business
10. Tourism: Ezemvelo KZN

- Wildlife
11. Municipal (investment attraction): iLembe District Municipality
12. Government (promoting socio-economic growth): KZN Department of the Treasury
13. Partnership Award: Durban Automotive Cluster

