



Excellence rewarded as KwaZulu-Natal's top achievers are recognised at prestigious awards event

THE fourth FNB KZN Top Business Portfolio Awards were held at a gala dinner at the Elangeni Hotel on the May 12, 2010. The awards – which have grown significantly in prestige and stature over the past four years – are open to companies and organisations in both the private and public sectors that make a contribution to the economy of KwaZulu-Natal.

An annual highlight on the province's business event calendar, the awards event was again attended by an esteemed list of dignitaries and leaders from various government departments, municipalities and businesses across KwaZulu-Natal.

Celebrating excellence

Pearl Bengu, FNB KZN Regional Director stated: "We are extremely pleased to be a part of this event again. With the Fifa 2010 World Cup on its way, the FNB KZN Top Business Awards will certainly augur well for the province by celebrating the excellence of its leaders."

FNB believes it is essential to showcase the positive contributions made by industrial players in the KZN economy, and to build investor confidence in the region.

Inspiration

Grant Adlam, publisher of the KZN Top Business Portfolio, says: "By rewarding the achievements of successful companies in KwaZulu-Natal, they might serve as an inspiration to others to do business in the province." The highly anticipated 12th edition of the KZN Top Business Portfolio was launched at the awards event. "The Portfolio is used to raise the profile of KwaZulu-Natal as a first-class business destination in the ongoing drive to attract investors and entrepreneurs to the region," explains Adlam.

Strive for best

In his keynote address, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Michael Mabuyakhulu stated that the event not only honoured those who set the bar, but encouraged "all of us to always strive for the best and to constantly push the boundaries of excellence". He emphasised that while the province has much to celebrate, there was still a need to



continue promoting investment in KZN in order to drive further economic growth.

Achievement

In conjunction with the launch of the Portfolio, an award is given in each economic sector to businesses that are playing their part in the sustained economic growth of the province. Lalita Ventura, publisher of the KwaZulu-Natal Top Business Portfolio said: "Being selected as a winner or finalist is a great achievement and a real opportunity to generate positive publicity for your business."

"FNB and the KZN Top Business Portfolio congratulate all nominees, finalists and winners on their participation in these awards and wish them well in their future endeavours."

Awards

The businesses that took top

honours in each sector on the night were:

- Agriculture: Tongaat Hulett
- Mining and Quarrying: Richards Bay Minerals
- Manufacturing: PFK Electronics
- Utilities: Spring Lights Gas
- Construction: Edison Power Group
- Trade: McCarthy
- Transport, Storage and Communication: Grindrod
- Financial and Business Services: DRG Outsourcing
- Social and Community Services: University of KwaZulu-Natal Graduate Business School
- Tourism: Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- Municipal (Investment attraction): iLembe District Municipality
- Government (Promoting socio-economic growth): Treasury: KZN Department of Finance

□ Partnership Award: Durban Automotive Cluster

Award sponsors, FNB stated: "As a proudly South African bank, we congratulate all the deserving winners and believe that through rewarding this type of excellence in the industry, we create a better country and a better world".

Partnership Award

The evening's top award – the Partnership Award – was won by a well-established, proactive and ambitious public-private partnership between the eThekweni Municipality and the automotive industry in KwaZulu-Natal.

The partnership, which was established in 2002 and focuses on developing the competitiveness of this industry, enjoys the support of the major role players and stakeholders in the regional automotive industry.

THE FNB KZN Top Business Portfolio Awards culminated in the evening's top award for the best Partnership going to the Durban Automotive Cluster. This public-private partnership between eThekweni Municipality and KZN's automotive industry was represented at the awards by Zamo Xaba and Thabani Shale (third and fifth from left, respectively). Presenting them with the award are Grant Adlam, Lalita Ventura, Elizabeth Maepa (CEO FNB Public Sector Banking) and Michael Mabuyakhulu (KZN MEC for Economic Development and Tourism).