MASAKHE
LET'S BUILD

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ithala
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

2026 ISSUE 01

NEWSLETTER



pg 7

IDFC BOARD CHAMPIONS INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND INVESTMENT IN KWAZULU-NATAL

Read More

The Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) Board has reaffirmed its commitment to driving industrialisation, investment attraction and sustainable job creation across KwaZulu-Natal through a recent oversight visit to the Ezakheni and Madadeni Industrial Estates.

Led by Board Chairperson, Mr Khayo E. Mpungose, alongside members of the Board and Executive Committee, the visit provided an opportunity to engage directly with tenants, assess economic activity within the estates and evaluate how IDFC's industrial property portfolio continues to contribute to regional development and economic transformation.



pg 8

UNLOCKING INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL THROUGH STRATEGIC ASSETS

Read More

The oversight visit forms part of the Board's ongoing effort to deepen its understanding of IDFC's property portfolio and ensure that the organisation's assets continue to deliver meaningful developmental outcomes.

MAKING IT HAPPEN TOGETHER

WWW.ITHALA.CO.ZA

Inspiring New Hope

Ithala is an Authorised Financial Services and Credit Provider. FSP Licence NO. 17125 NCRCP No. 610

CONTENTS

- **CORPORATE**

1. **Editor's Note**
2. **Investor Psychology:**
   An Invisible, Yet Powerful Driver of Investment Attraction, Facilitation and Support

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS OVERSIGHT VISIT**

3. IDFC board champions industrial growth and investment in kwaZulu-Natal
4. Unlocking industrial potential through strategic assets
5. Strengthening economic development and job creation
6. Recognising the role of employees
7. Ezakheni Industrial Estate driving industrial activity
8. Madadeni Industrial Estate supporting local economies

- **BUSINESS FINANCE**

9. Funding milestone drives healthcare expansion, job creation and local economic growth
10. Taking business support to communities: Masakhe Business Workshops
11. IDFC brings funding hope to Umhlathuze
12. Building an inclusive economy where no one is left behind

- **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS**

13. IDFC at the 28th Durban Business Fair
14. Financing Africa's Industrialisation: Manufacturing Indaba 2026
15. Connecting with the burial industry to drive sector growth
16. Collaborating to unlock economic development in KwaZulu-Natal
17. IDFC reinforces its commitment to socio-economic transformation at Dundee July
18. Strengthening partnerships to grow the midlands economy
19. Celebrating our communities-67 Minutes for Mandela Day
20. 2026 KZN Liquor Indaba and Business Expo
21. Investing in youth, investing in the future

- **PROPERTIES**

22. Shaping the future of property-led development
23. Supporting tenant success through stakeholder engagement
24. Shaping the property future: 3rd Annual Ethekwini Property Conference
25. EIP Concept: Master Planning of Isithebe Estate
26. South African Council of Shopping Centres (SACSC) KwaZulu-Natal Chapter Business Breakfast
27. Capacity building and employee wellness
28. Celebrating our People: Workers' Day 2026
29. Celebrating our Heritage: Africa Day 2026
30. Staff Recognised as Drivers of Delivery
31. Commemorating Men's Month

DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Sitandiwe Dimba
Group Reputation Manager

Dear Stakeholders,

A LEGACY OF DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

Established in 1958, Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) has spent 68 years supporting economic development, enterprise growth, infrastructure development, empowerment and job creation throughout KwaZulu-Natal. Today, the organisation remains a key provincial development institution focused on enabling inclusive growth, supporting sustainable businesses and facilitating investment that delivers meaningful socio-economic impact.

Over nearly seven decades, the Corporation has evolved into a key provincial development agency focused on promoting inclusive growth, supporting sustainable enterprises, facilitating investment, developing strategic infrastructure and advancing economic transformation.

This quarter, IDFC continued to take its mandate beyond the boardroom and into communities, industry platforms, and the factory floor, delivering meaningful impact where it matters most.

Our purpose remains clear: to accelerate economic growth and transformation, stimulate entrepreneurship, and create sustainable employment opportunities for the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Throughout the quarter, IDFC strengthened its presence across business, industry, community and government platforms, advancing its mandate to accelerate economic growth and transformation in KwaZulu-Natal.

From investment and manufacturing forums to stakeholder engagements, community outreach initiatives and property sector platforms, IDFC leveraged every opportunity to connect entrepreneurs, investors, tenants and communities with the financial and property solutions needed to unlock growth, create jobs and drive inclusive economic participation.

Hosting Masakhe Business Workshops in uMngeni and Greater Kokstad Municipality, to representing KwaZulu-Natal manufacturers at national industry indabas, and celebrating the dedication of our employees on Workers' Day, each initiative undertaken during the quarter reflects our commitment to driving inclusive economic development and empowering local enterprises.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, Executive Management, staff, tenants, partners, and stakeholders for their continued support and collaboration. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient provincial economy.

While much has been achieved, our work is far from over. We remain committed to creating opportunities, enabling growth, and advancing transformation across KwaZulu-Natal.

The journey continues.

We also encourage you to give us feedback and suggestions on how best to do this, by emailing us at **talktous@ithala.co.za** or on the social media platforms.

- Facebook: @MyIDFC
- LinkedIn: @IthalaDevelopmentFinance Corporation
- Website: www.ithala.co.za

We hope you find the content informative and engaging, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and feedback.

INVESTOR PSYCHOLOGY: AN INVISIBLE, YET POWERFUL DRIVER OF **INVESTMENT ATTRACTION, FACILITATION AND SUPPORT**



Mr Maxwell S. Ncane
Manager Research & Innovation

THE STATUS QUO

Investment attraction is frequently portrayed as a competition of incentives, infrastructure, tax concessions and industrial land. Governments invest millions in industrial estates, special economic zones, investment conferences and promotional campaigns, believing that improved physical infrastructure and financial incentives will attract investors. While these factors remain important, they overlook one of the most influential drivers of investment decisions: investor psychology.

INVESTOR PSYCHOLOGY

Investor psychology is the study of how perceptions, emotions, confidence and behavioural tendencies influence investment decisions. Investors are not purely rational decision-makers who compare financial returns on a spreadsheet. They also respond to trust, certainty, reputation, previous experiences and expectations about the future.

In many cases, investment decisions are determined as much by how investors feel about a location as by what they objectively know about it. This has significant implications for organisations responsible for investment attraction, facilitation and investor support.

Their role extends well beyond marketing investment opportunities. They are, in effect, managers of investor confidence.

An investor contemplating a new manufacturing facility or logistics operation is making a long-term commitment involving substantial financial risk. Before committing capital, the investor seeks reassurance that industrial estate owners offer services that are dependable, infrastructure is maintained, regulations are predictable, institutions are competent and government partners are responsive. Every interaction either reduces uncertainty or reinforces it.

Consequently, investment attraction should not merely be viewed as a marketing function but as a confidence-building process. The objective is to create an environment where investors perceive risks to be manageable, institutions to be reliable and future business prospects to be sufficiently predictable to justify long-term investment. The behavioural factors that shape investor psychology are summarised below.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR	INFLUENCE ON INVESTMENT DECISIONS
	Investors are more willing to commit capital where they believe institutions are stable, governance is credible and the economic outlook is positive.
a. Risk perception	Investors evaluate both actual and perceived risks. Concerns about infrastructure failures, policy uncertainty, crime or poor municipal services may discourage investment even when financial returns appear attractive.
b. Trust	Confidence in authorities, executives, and investment promotion agencies reduces uncertainty and encourages investment commitments.
c. Expectations	Positive expectations regarding future infrastructure improvements, improved care, reduce rent-seeking tendencies, economic growth and expanded market opportunities influence investment timing and expansion decisions.
d. Loss aversion	Investors generally seek to avoid potential losses more strongly than they pursue equivalent gains, making them particularly cautious during periods of uncertainty and incompetency.
e. Herd behaviour	Successful investments by one leading firms often encourage other investors to follow, creating positive investment momentum.
f. Anchoring	First impressions of a location frequently influence future investment decisions, even when circumstances subsequently improve.
g. Availability bias	Negative media reports (i.e. alleged executives or authorities' rogue behaviour), service delivery failures, or political interference, etc. can shape investor perceptions disproportionately relative to the broader investment environment.

1. HE LINK WITH INVESTMENT ATTRACTION, FACILITATION AND SUPPORT

These behavioural drivers demonstrate that investment attraction is fundamentally a process of reducing uncertainty. While infrastructure, incentives and market access remain essential, investors ultimately ask a deeper question:
Can I trust people operating this industrial estate or special economic zone with my investment over the next ten or twenty-five years?

This is where investment facilitation becomes equally important. Once an investor expresses interest, the quality of facilitation can determine whether the investment materialises. Delays in approvals, fragmented processes, inconsistent communication and unresolved challenges increase psychological uncertainty and gradually erode investor confidence.

Conversely, responsive facilitation demonstrates organizational competence, signalling that the entity understands business needs and is committed to enabling investment.

Investor support or aftercare is equally influenced by psychology. Existing investors continuously reassess whether to expand, diversify or relocate their operations. Their decisions are shaped not only by financial performance but also by their experience of operating within the investment location.

A business that consistently receives timely support, transparent communication and practical problem-solving is significantly more likely to reinvest than one that feels neglected or unsupported.

For industrial estate operating entities, this represents an important strategic shift. Rather than viewing infrastructure management, maintenance, tenant engagement and stakeholder coordination as separate functions, they should be recognised as integrated confidence-building activities. Clean industrial environments, reliable utilities, visible security, responsive estate management and proactive communication collectively strengthen investor perceptions and reduce perceived investment risk.



South Africa's current economic environment reinforces the importance of investor psychology. Slower economic growth, infrastructure constraints, municipal financial pressures and intense global competition for investment have made investors increasingly selective.

Capital now flows not only towards locations offering competitive financial returns but also towards jurisdictions demonstrating institutional reliability, policy consistency and effective service delivery.

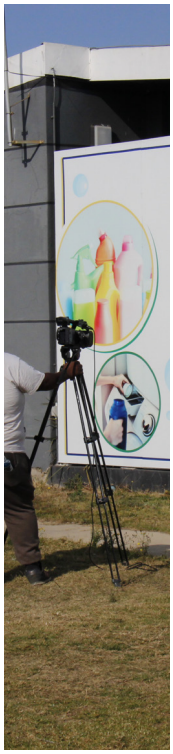
This places a greater responsibility on investment promotion agencies, operators of industrial estates or SEZs, municipalities and development finance institutions. Their mandate is no longer limited to identifying investment opportunities. They must actively manage investor confidence throughout the investment lifecycle from initial enquiry and project facilitation to operational support and business expansion. Every engagement becomes an opportunity either to strengthen confidence or to weaken it.

In relation to Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC), this perspective offers an opportunity to reposition its industrial estates beyond physical infrastructure. By consistently providing efficient investment facilitation, proactive investor aftercare, coordinated municipal engagement and transparent communication, IDFC can distinguish its industrial estates as locations where investors experience certainty rather than uncertainty. In an increasingly competitive investment environment, this psychological advantage may become as valuable as any financial incentive.

2. CONCLUSION

Ultimately, investor psychology reminds us that investment decisions are made by people before they are made by companies. Behind every investment proposal is an executive seeking confidence that their company's investment will be secure, productive and supported over the long term. Industrial estates that successfully combine quality infrastructure with credible institutions, responsive management and dependable service delivery will be better positioned not only to attract investors, but also to retain them, facilitate their growth and encourage reinvestment.

The future of investment attraction therefore lies not only in building industrial infrastructure, but also in building investor confidence. Those jurisdictions that understand and manage investor psychology will possess one of the most powerful and most under-rated competitive advantages in attracting sustainable investment.



IDFC BOARD CHAMPIONS INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND INVESTMENT IN KWAZULU-NATAL

The Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) Board has reaffirmed its commitment to driving industrialisation, investment attraction and sustainable job creation across KwaZulu-Natal through a recent oversight visit to the Ezakheni and Madadeni Industrial Estates.

Led by Board Chairperson, Mr Khayo E. Mpungose, alongside members of the Board and Executive Committee, the visit provided an opportunity to engage directly with tenants, assess economic activity within the estates and evaluate how IDFC's industrial property portfolio continues to contribute to regional development and economic transformation.

A key message from the visit was a call for greater participation by black industrialists and business leaders in the province's industrial economy.















"IDFC is a platform through which the people of KwaZulu-Natal can participate meaningfully in the industrialisation of the economy. We are calling on black business leaders and industrialists to engage with us, partner with us in key sectors such as manufacturing, and work with us in building enterprises that can produce, employ and transform local economies," Mr Khayo E. Mpungose, Chairman of the Board of Directors

UNLOCKING INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL THROUGH STRATEGIC ASSETS

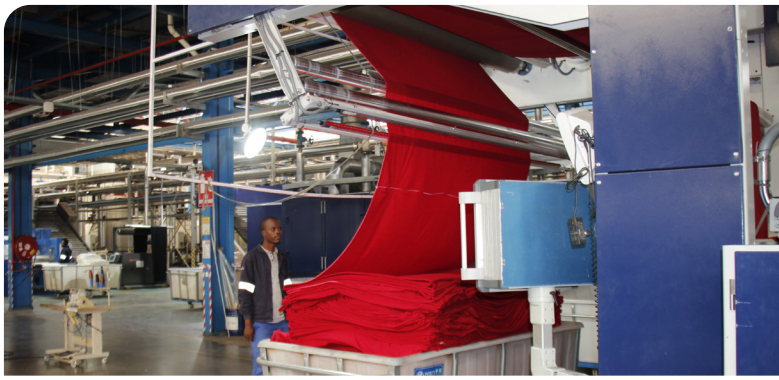
The oversight visit forms part of the Board's ongoing effort to deepen its understanding of IDFC's property portfolio and ensure that the organisation's assets continue to deliver meaningful developmental outcomes. Through active oversight and stakeholder engagement, the Board aims to maximise the impact of industrial estates as catalysts for investment, enterprise growth and employment creation.

One of the highlights of the visit was Ezakheni Industrial Estate in Ladysmith, one of KwaZulu-Natal's most significant industrial hubs. Strategically located between Durban, home to Africa's busiest port, and Gauteng, South Africa's largest consumer market, the estate plays a vital role in supporting industrial activity and economic growth.

Spanning approximately 640 hectares with a Gross Lettable Area of 274,022m², Ezakheni supports an estimated 15,000 jobs and accommodates a diverse range of businesses involved in manufacturing, textiles and clothing, school furniture production, polypropylene bags, welding consumables, corrugated cardboard, injection moulding, refrigeration, animal feed, footwear and stationery production.

The estate has also been identified as a strategic platform for future growth through the planned development of an Industrial Hub aimed at attracting further investment, expanding production capacity and creating additional employment opportunities for surrounding communities.

The delegation also visited Madadeni Industrial Estate near Newcastle, which remains an important contributor to local economic activity. Home to clothing and textile manufacturers as well as bedding and related production businesses, the estate continues to support livelihoods while strengthening township and regional economies.











STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

During engagements with tenants, the Board gained firsthand insights into the challenges and opportunities facing businesses operating within the estates. Discussions centred on the role industrial infrastructure plays in supporting production, expanding local enterprise and creating jobs in communities where employment opportunities are often limited.

Mr Mpungose emphasised the Board's determination to ensure that IDFC's assets continue to deliver value for entrepreneurs, industrialists, investors and communities across the province.









"Our role as the Board is to provide strategic leadership, oversight and support to ensure that Ithala's assets operate at their highest potential. These industrial estates must continue to attract businesses, support production, create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the communities they serve" Mr Khayo E. Mpungose, Chairman of the Board of Directors

RECOGNISING THE ROLE OF EMPLOYEES

The visit also provided an opportunity for the Board Chairperson to engage with employees, recognising their critical contribution to the organisation's success.

Mr Mpungose praised staff members for their commitment to maintaining strong relationships with tenants and clients, supporting operational excellence and ensuring that IDFC continues to deliver on its developmental mandate.

The Board's visit to Ezakheni and Madadeni underscored IDFC's renewed focus on asset optimisation, service excellence, stakeholder engagement and measurable developmental outcomes. It also demonstrated the Board's commitment to visible leadership and ensuring that the organisation's industrial assets continue to serve as platforms for growth, investment and economic transformation.

As KwaZulu-Natal pursues greater industrial expansion and inclusive economic growth, IDFC remains committed to leveraging its financial and property assets to unlock opportunity, support black industrialists and entrepreneurs, create sustainable jobs and contribute to a more prosperous future for the province.















"Our staff are the face of Ithala in communities and industrial estates across the province. Their commitment, professionalism and daily engagement with clients and stakeholders are essential to sustaining service delivery, retaining tenants, attracting new investment and ensuring that IDFC remains responsive to the needs of KwaZulu-Natal."

EZAKHENI INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
DRIVING INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

Strategically positioned in Ladysmith between Durban, home to Africa's busiest port, and Gauteng, South Africa's largest consumer market, the Ezakheni Industrial Estate remains one of the province's most significant industrial assets.



The 640-hectare estate, with a Gross Lettable Area of 274,022m², supports approximately 15,000 jobs and accommodates a diverse range of enterprises spanning manufacturing, textiles and clothing, school furniture production, polypropylene bag manufacturing, welding consumables, corrugated cardboard production, injection moulding, refrigeration, animal feed, footwear and stationery manufacturing.

The estate has also been identified as a strategic platform for future industrial expansion through the planned development of an Industrial Hub aimed at attracting investment, increasing production capacity and unlocking further employment opportunities for surrounding communities.







Ezakheni Industrial Estate



MADADENI INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMIES

The Madadeni Industrial Estate in Newcastle continues to play an important role in supporting local economic activity and industrial development.

Its tenant base, which includes clothing and textile manufacturers as well as bedding and related production businesses, contributes meaningfully to livelihoods, enterprise development and the strengthening of township and regional economies.

The Board has emphasised the its commitment to ensuring that IDFC's industrial assets are fully leveraged to benefit communities, entrepreneurs, investors and the broader provincial economy.

As KwaZulu-Natal continues to pursue greater industrialisation and economic transformation, IDFC remains committed to leveraging its financial and property assets to unlock investment opportunities, support black industrialists and entrepreneurs, create and sustain jobs, and drive inclusive socio-economic development across the province.

Through its industrial estates, development finance mandate and strategic partnerships, IDFC continues to position itself as a catalyst for industrial growth and economic transformation, creating opportunities for black industrialists, supporting local enterprise development and building a more inclusive and prosperous KwaZulu-Natal.





"Our responsibility as the Board is to provide strategic leadership and oversight to ensure that Ithala's assets operate at their highest potential. These industrial estates must continue to attract businesses, support production, create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the communities they serve" Mr Khayo E. Mpungose,

FUNDING MILESTONE DRIVES HEALTHCARE EXPANSION, JOB CREATION AND LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Ngwane Medics (Pty) Ltd, trading as Isibusiso Health, has achieved a major growth milestone following the successful completion of an expansion project supported by funding from the Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC).

The expansion has resulted in the construction of an additional floor, significantly increasing the facility's capacity and creating commercial space for new tenants, including pharmacy and laboratory services. Beyond enhancing healthcare access in Scottburgh, the development creates opportunities for business growth, strengthens the local healthcare value chain, and contributes to economic activity within the region.

Founded by Dr Roberto Mlondolozi Khanyile, a medical practitioner with more than a decade of experience, Isibusiso Health has evolved from a private practice established in 2013 into a growing healthcare enterprise. The expansion demonstrates how strategic development finance can unlock the growth potential of locally owned businesses, enabling them to scale operations, diversify revenue streams, and increase their contribution to the provincial economy.

The economic impact of the project extends far beyond the facility itself. The additional commercial space enables new businesses to operate within the development, creating opportunities for entrepreneurship, supporting tenant sustainability, and generating employment opportunities. Increased business activity within the facility is also expected to stimulate local spending, strengthen supply chains, and contribute to broader economic participation within the community.

As KwaZulu-Natal's development finance institution, IDFC is mandated to promote social and economic development by mobilising financial resources, supporting enterprise development, attracting investment, and advancing entrepreneurship and job creation.

The Isibusiso Health expansion is a practical demonstration of this mandate, showcasing how targeted funding can support business expansion while delivering meaningful economic and social benefits.

By investing in a locally owned healthcare enterprise, IDFC has helped create an asset that delivers dual value: improving access to essential healthcare services while supporting economic growth and enterprise development. The project highlights the catalytic role that development finance plays in unlocking investment, creating jobs, strengthening local businesses, and building resilient communities.

The successful completion of the expansion stands as a compelling example of how development finance can accelerate both healthcare provision and economic transformation, creating lasting value for communities and contributing to a more inclusive and sustainable KwaZulu-Natal economy.





Isibusiso Health Centre Launch

TAKING BUSINESS SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES: MASAKHE BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Economic transformation begins with access to information, opportunities, and finance. This is why Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) continues to bring the Masakhe Business Workshops directly to communities across KwaZulu-Natal.

During the quarter, IDFC engaged entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners in the uMngeni and Greater Kokstad Municipalities, providing practical guidance on how to start, sustain, and grow successful enterprises. The workshops connected participants directly with Ithala's products and services, while equipping them with the knowledge required to participate meaningfully in the economy.

Participants received insights on:

BUSINESS FINANCE

Funding solutions designed to support start-ups, business expansion, asset acquisition, and operational growth.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (SCM)

Understanding procurement processes and how businesses can position themselves to access supplier and contracting opportunities.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Information on available premises and retail spaces within Ithala's property portfolio that can provide businesses with the infrastructure needed to expand operations and reach new markets.

The Masakhe Business Workshops serve as an important catalyst for local economic development. By improving access to information and development finance, the initiative helps entrepreneurs overcome barriers to business growth, increases the pool of investment-ready enterprises, and supports the development of sustainable SMMEs capable of creating employment and generating income within their communities.

Through partnerships with municipalities, IDFC is extending its reach to emerging entrepreneurs in both urban and rural areas, ensuring that economic opportunities are accessible to those with the potential to drive local growth. These engagements contribute to the development of a stronger entrepreneurial ecosystem, promote greater participation in the formal economy, and support the province's broader economic transformation agenda.

Economic Impact: Increased awareness of development finance opportunities strengthened entrepreneurial and business management capabilities, improved access to procurement and commercial opportunities, and the creation of a pipeline of bankable SMMEs positioned to attract investment, expand operations, and contribute to job creation and sustainable economic growth in KwaZulu-Natal.

Your business could be the next success story. Through access to funding, business development support and strategic partnerships, IDFC is helping entrepreneurs transform ideas into thriving enterprises that contribute to employment creation and economic transformation in KwaZulu-Natal.



Masakhe Business Workshop at Umngeni and Greater Kokstad Municipalities





IDFC BRINGS FUNDING HOPE TO UMHLATHUZE

The atmosphere at uMhlathuze Municipality was filled with optimism and opportunity as entrepreneurs, small business owners and aspiring investors gathered for a Breakfast Funding Assistance Seminar hosted with SM Accounting Tax Consultants in partnership with Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC).

The engagement brought together members of the local business community eager to learn more about funding opportunities and the support available to help their enterprises grow and thrive. Through a comprehensive presentation, IDFC unpacked the business finance customer journey, explained how funding applications are assessed, and provided practical insights into the requirements for accessing development finance.

Participants also gained a deeper understanding of key business disciplines, including financial management, business sustainability and the role of security and collateral in securing funding. By simplifying often complex financial concepts, the seminar empowered entrepreneurs with the knowledge needed to make informed business decisions and better position themselves for growth.

A highlight of the event was the interactive question-and-answer session, where business owners had the opportunity to engage directly with IDFC representatives, raise real business challenges and receive practical guidance.
The open dialogue reinforced IDFC's commitment to supporting entrepreneurs beyond financing by equipping them with the information and confidence required to pursue business opportunities.

The seminar forms part of IDFC's ongoing efforts to expand access to finance, stimulate entrepreneurship and promote inclusive economic growth across KwaZulu-Natal. By connecting entrepreneurs with funding information and business development support, the initiative helps unlock the potential of local enterprises to invest, expand operations and create employment opportunities within their communities.

More than just an information-sharing session, the seminar represented a meaningful step towards building a stronger local economy. It demonstrated how collaboration between development finance institutions and business support partners can help cultivate a pipeline of investment-ready enterprises capable of contributing to sustainable economic development.

Economic Impact: Increased access to funding information, strengthened entrepreneurial capacity, improved investment readiness, and the development of local businesses with the potential to create jobs, stimulate economic activity and contribute to the growth of the King Cetshwayo District economy.

CALL TO ACTION

Looking to start, grow or expand your business? Connect with IDFC to explore funding solutions and business support opportunities designed to help entrepreneurs unlock growth, create employment and build a stronger KwaZulu-Natal economy.



Business Funding solutions presentations



IDFC AT THE 28th DURBAN BUSINESS FAIR

IDFC participated in the 28th Durban Business Fair, one of KwaZulu-Natal's premier platforms for entrepreneurship, innovation and enterprise development.



The exhibition provided an opportunity for IDFC to engage directly with emerging businesses, particularly small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), showcasing its range of funding solutions, business support services and commercial property offerings.

By connecting entrepreneurs with development finance opportunities and business resources, IDFC continues to play a critical role in strengthening the SMME sector, promoting business sustainability and advancing economic participation.

Economic Impact: Expanded awareness of funding opportunities, strengthened the pipeline of investment-ready businesses, and supported entrepreneurship as a driver of economic growth and job creation.









BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

IDFC participated in the Nokusa Disab ility NPO Workshop held at the Durban Stable Theatre, bringing together people with disabilities, entrepreneurs and development partners to explore pathways to economic inclusion.

Representing IDFC, Business Advisor Ms Thabisile Zungu shared information on funding solutions, mentorship programmes and business advisory support available to emerging enterprises, including businesses owned and operated by people with disabilities.

Through engagements such as these, IDFC continues to promote inclusive enterprise development and broaden access to economic opportunities for historically marginalised groups.

Economic Impact: Supporting entrepreneurship among people with disabilities contributes to greater economic inclusion, income generation and participation in the provincial economy.







"We help small businesses grow, and that includes businesses run by people with disabilities. No one gets left out," Ms. Thabisile Zungu, IDFC Business Advisor

FINANCING AFRICA'S INDUSTRIALISATION: MANUFACTURING INDABA 2026

IDFC delegates joined more than 1,500 industry leaders and stakeholders at the Manufacturing Indaba in Gauteng, where discussions focused on mobilising capital to drive industrial growth and economic resilience across Africa.

The event reinforced the important role played by Development Finance Institutions in supporting manufacturing growth, encouraging innovation, stimulating investment and expanding productive capacity.

For IDFC, the lessons and insights gathered continue to inform efforts to support KwaZulu-Natal manufacturers through tailored funding and commercial property solutions.

These interventions enable businesses to acquire machinery and equipment, access industrial premises, expand production capacity and create sustainable employment opportunities.

Economic Impact: Supporting manufacturers unlocks investment, drives industrialisation, strengthens value chains and contributes significantly to long-term economic growth and job creation.











CONNECTING WITH THE BURIAL INDUSTRY TO DRIVE SECTOR GROWTH

IDFC participated in the SAFPA International convention Business Expo, using these platforms to engage stakeholders and showcase funding and property solutions.

These engagements enabled IDFC to connect with entrepreneurs, investors and industry leaders across various sectors, including agriculture, retail, manufacturing and tourism.

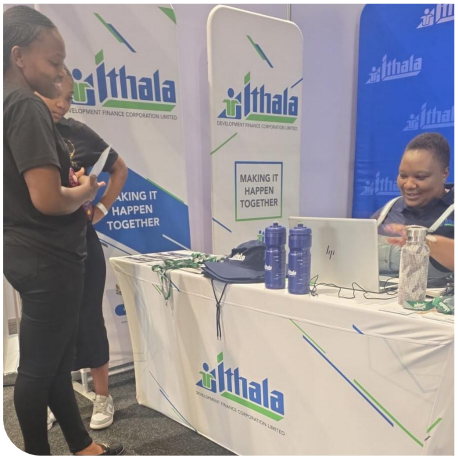
By promoting access to development finance and business support services, IDFC continues to foster enterprise development and sector growth across the province.

Economic Impact: Increased access to information, finance and business support strengthens key economic sectors and promotes sustainable growth.











IDFC help desk at the SAFPA International convention

COLLABORATING TO *Unlock Economic Development* IN KWAZULU-NATAL

IDFC and the KwaZulu-Natal House of Traditional Leaders embarked on strategic discussions aimed at strengthening collaboration to promote entrepreneurship, skills development and economic opportunity within rural communities.



Led by KwaZulu-Natal House of Traditional Leaders Chairperson Inkosi R.S. Shinga and IDFC Group Chief Executive Ms Pearl Bengu, discussions explored opportunities to leverage IDFC's extensive property portfolio and business finance solutions to stimulate local economic development.



The engagement highlighted the critical role traditional leaders play in facilitating sustainable development and economic empowerment within their communities.

The partnership seeks to improve access to information, funding opportunities, commercial property and investment support, particularly within rural areas where economic interventions can have a transformative impact.

Economic Impact: Expanding access to finance and economic opportunities in rural communities supports enterprise growth, job creation and broader participation in the provincial economy.



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO GROW THE MIDLANDS ECONOMY

IDFC hosted a Midlands Stakeholders Engagement Dinner in eMnambithi, bringing together traditional leaders, government representatives, business leaders, black industrialists, entrepreneurs and property tenants.

Addressing stakeholders, IDFC Board Chairperson Mr Khayo E. Mpungose reaffirmed the importance of collaboration in driving economic transformation and sustainable development across KwaZulu-Natal.

The engagement created an important platform for strengthening relationships, identifying economic opportunities and aligning stakeholders around a common goal of growing local economies and creating jobs.

The evening concluded with a collective commitment to build a Midlands economy driven by entrepreneurs, investors and job creators.

Strong stakeholder partnerships create an enabling environment for investment, enterprise development and sustainable economic growth.



















IDFC Leadership engaging with Midlands Stakeholders

IDFC REINFORCES ITS COMMITMENT TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AT DUNDEE JULY

IDFC reaffirmed its commitment to driving socio-economic transformation, supporting local enterprises and SMMEs, promoting job creation, and fostering meaningful partnerships in the Umzinyathi District through the 2026 Dundee July.

As the development finance institution of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, IDFC plays a vital role in advancing inclusive economic growth and sustainable development across the province.

Through strategic investments, business support interventions, commercial property solutions and stakeholder partnerships, IDFC continues to unlock opportunities within township and rural economies, industrial estates and priority sectors.

For more than two decades, the Dundee July has served as an important platform for engaging directly with communities, entrepreneurs and development stakeholders. The event creates opportunities to showcase local talent, stimulate economic activity and strengthen partnerships that contribute to long-term socio-economic development.

In line with its mandate, IDFC remains committed to supporting initiatives that advance entrepreneurship, local economic development and tourism while aligning with provincial priorities aimed at reducing poverty, creating employment and promoting economic transformation. Through its participation, IDFC continues to demonstrate how development finance can translate into tangible benefits for communities across KwaZulu-Natal.

As a proud partner of this flagship event, IDFC sponsored the race stake money, jockey uniforms and the fashion category, contributing to the continued success and prestige of the Dundee July while supporting opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs to participate and benefit.

More than a horse-racing event, the Dundee July has evolved into a platform for economic activity, tourism promotion and community development. It creates opportunities for SMMEs, informal traders, creatives and service providers, while attracting visitors and investment into the region. By supporting the event, IDFC helps stimulate local economic participation and showcase the potential of the Umzinyathi District as a destination for business, tourism and investment.

Economic Impact: Increased tourism spending, expanded opportunities for SMMEs and local traders, strengthened community partnerships, enhanced exposure for local enterprises, and support for economic activities that contribute to job creation and inclusive growth across the region.





Dundee July Horse racing



CULTIVATE YOUR FUTURE WITH AGRICULTURE FINANCE!

Plant the Seed for Growth with Tailored Funding Solutions



WHAT WE FINANCE

- ☑ Farm Equipment & Machinery
- ☑ Inputs (seeds, fertiliser, livestock)
- ☑ Infrastructure (irrigation, fencing, storage)
- ☑ Land Acquisition or Expansion
- ☑ Agro-processing & Value Chain Projects

WHO CAN APPLY?

- ☑ Smallholders & Emerging Farmers
- ☑ Commercial Farmers
- ☑ Agri-Cooperatives & Agri-Businesses
- ☑ Youth & Women in Agriculture
- ☑ Rural Development Projects

FUNDING FEATURES

- ☑ Loans from **R50,000** to **R50 million**
- ☑ Flexible repayment periods up to 15 years
- ☑ Seasonal repayment options available
- ☑ Competitive interest rates

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- ☑ Farm Profile or Business Plan
- ☑ Personal & Company Registration Documents
- ☑ Financial or Cash Flow Projections
- ☑ Quotations or Invoices
- ☑ Proof of Land Ownership or Lease

APPLY NOW

bfleads@ithala.co.za @MyIDFC

@Ithala Development Finance Corporation

031 372 1200

"Let's Grow Together ,Finance that Feeds the Nation!"

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PROPERTY-LED DEVELOPMENT

IDFC participated in several strategic property and investment platforms during the quarter, including the South African Council of Shopping Centres (SACSC) KwaZulu-Natal Business Breakfast and the 3rd Annual eThekwini Property Conference.

These engagements provided opportunities to showcase IDFC's integrated property and funding solutions while connecting with investors, developers, retailers and business leaders.











IDFC at the Annual Ethekwini Property Conference help desk and Engagement



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTRES (SACSC) KWAZULU-NATAL CHAPTER BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) attended the SACSC event held at the vibrant Ballito Lifestyle Centre on the 14th of May 2026.
The event brought together industry leaders, property developers, retailers, investors, and business professionals to engage on the future of retail, economic growth, as well as sustainable business development in South Africa.
As a development finance institution committed to empowering businesses and driving inclusive economic participation, IDFC used the platform to strengthen strategic relationships, explore investment opportunities, and showcase its support for entrepreneurs and emerging enterprises across KwaZulu-Natal and beyond.

The SACSC event provided valuable networking opportunities and insightful discussions around innovation, commercial property trends, township economy development, and collaborative growth within the retail sector.



2026 SACSC Business Break fast





EIP CONCEPT: MASTER PLANNING OF ISITHEBE ESTATE

*THE GLOBAL ECO INDUSTRIAL PARKS PROGRAMME (**GEIPP**) WORKSHOP SESSIONS ARE BEING HELD AT ISITHEBE ESTATE.*

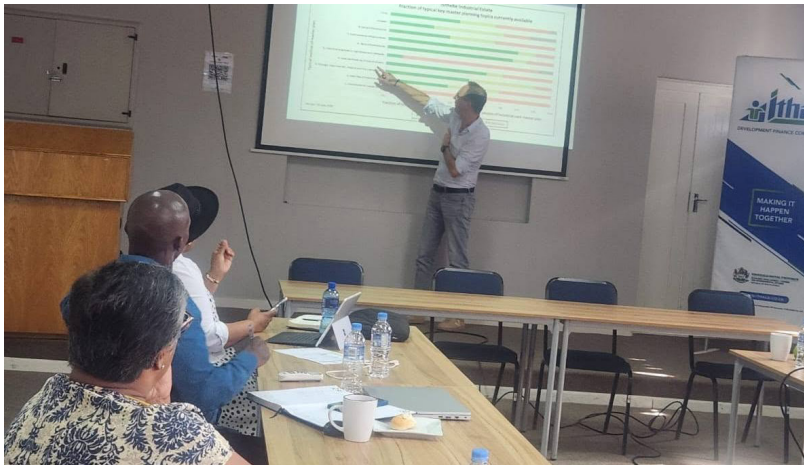
Eco-industrial parks (EIPs) are about creating more resource-efficient and cost-effective industrial parks which are more competitive, attractive for investment and risk resilient. Eco-industrial parks provide economic, social and environmental benefits to industrial parks and their stakeholders (e.g. tenant companies, community).

The Global Eco Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP) South Africa is being implemented with funding by the Government of Switzerland through its State Secretariat of Economic Affairs and through a collaboration of UNIDO, the DTIC and the National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa (NCPC-SA).

IDFC continues to position its property portfolio as a catalyst for enterprise growth by providing commercial, retail and industrial spaces that enable businesses to establish, expand and create jobs.

Economic Impact: Strategic property investments unlock economic activity, attract investment and provide critical infrastructure needed for business growth.







Isithebe Industrial Estate

SUPPORTING TENANT SUCCESS THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Stakeholder engagement sessions were hosted with SMME tenants in Nkandla, Ethekwini, Madadeni and Osizweni to strengthen partnerships and support business sustainability.

This engagement presented our SME Tenants with valuable information and business solutions offered by our Properties, Business Finance, Group Finance and Security and Logistics units to discuss challenges, opportunities and collaborative solutions.

Primarily aimed at building positive and productive relations as well as creating trust and goodwill through open communication with our Properties clients.

By listening to tenants and responding to their needs, IDFC continues to create business environments that promote growth, resilience and long-term sustainability.

Economic Impact: Supporting small businesses within IDFC properties helps strengthen local economies, improve business performance and sustain employment opportunities.



Properties Tanants SMME Engagements





KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Inspiring New Hope

ithala
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

BUSINESS FINANCE

CALLING ALL WOMEN IN BUSINESS!

Are you a woman entrepreneur ready to grow, expand, or take your business to the next level? Funding opportunities are now open and this could be your moment.

Whether you're in retail, agriculture, services, or manufacturing, we're here to support your vision.

- Access funding to scale your business
- Support for women-led enterprises
- Empower your growth and impact



Don't let limited capital hold you back step into your power and build the future you deserve.

Apply now and turn your business goals into reality!

bfleads@ithala.co.za @MyIDFC

@Ithala Development Finance Corporation

031 372 1200

MAKING IT HAPPEN TOGETHER

WWW.ITHALA.CO.ZA

Ithala is an Authorised Financial Services and Credit Provider. FSP Licence NO. 17125 NCRCP No. 610

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE AFRICA DAY

Because economic development and cultural identity go hand in hand, on 25 May 2026, IDFC joined the Africa Day celebrations at The Playhouse Company in Durban. The day began with a vibrant cultural parade from King Dinuzulu Park, showcasing African unity, heritage, music, dance, traditional attire, and artistic expression. The theme centered on African solidarity, economic transformation, youth empowerment, and cultural pride. IDFC participated through an exhibition, engaging with attendees and showcasing business support services aimed at empowering entrepreneurs and promoting inclusive growth.



STAFF RECOGNISED AS *Drivers of Delivery*

Our mandate is delivered by people. This Workers' Day, we took time to appreciate them. Workers' Day provided an opportunity to recognise the dedication, resilience and hard work of IDFC employees across the province. Staff members participated in activities focused on appreciation, wellbeing and team-building, recognising that people remain at the heart of delivering the organisation's development mandate.

Staff at IDFC Head Office at Ithala Trade Centre, Ezakheni, Madadeni and Isithebe Industrial Estates came together for fun games, information sessions, winter messages of appreciation, and lucky draw prizes. It was a day filled with team spirit and camaraderie.

Teams enjoyed ice-breaker activities, inspirational notes, and messages of warmth as we headed into winter.



STAFF RECOGNISED AS DRIVERS OF DELIVERY

IDFC Board of Directors engaged with industrial based staff during the visit to Ezakheni Industrial Estate acknowledging their critical role in delivering the Corporation's developmental mandate.

The Board noted that staff members remain central to maintaining relationships with tenants and clients, ensuring operational excellence and translating IDFC's strategic objectives into tangible socio-economic impact.

The Board's visit to Ezakheni and Madadeni underscored IDFC's renewed focus on asset optimisation, stakeholder engagement, service excellence and measurable developmental impact. It further demonstrated the Board's commitment to visible leadership, strong governance and ensuring that the organisation's assets contribute meaningfully to economic growth and industrial development.

"Our employees are the face of Ithala in communities and industrial estates across the province. Their commitment, professionalism and daily engagement with stakeholders are essential to sustaining service delivery, retaining tenants, attracting new investment and ensuring that IDFC remains responsive to the needs of KwaZulu-Natal," Khayo E Mpungose, IDFC Chairman of the Board.











Ezakheni Industrial Estate recognition session



COMMEMORATING MEN'S MONTH

In recognition of Men's Month, the Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) partnered with its EDTEA sister entity, the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film Authority (KZNTFA), to host a capacity-building session aimed at empowering and supporting men in the workplace.

The session created a safe and engaging platform for meaningful dialogue around issues affecting men in both their personal and professional lives. Participants explored a range of important topics, including men's mental health, legal matters, and relationship challenges, gaining valuable insights and practical guidance from experienced facilitators. Male employees attended in large numbers, contributing to open and honest discussions that encouraged reflection, learning and mutual support. The interactive nature of the session fostered a sense of camaraderie while reinforcing the importance of seeking support, prioritising wellbeing and maintaining healthy relationships.

As organisations committed to developing not only thriving workplaces but also resilient communities, IDFC and KZNTFA recognise that employee wellness is fundamental to personal growth, workplace productivity and organisational success. By investing in initiatives that support mental, emotional and social wellbeing, both entities continue to promote a culture of care, inclusivity and empowerment.

The collaboration reflects the shared commitment of EDTEA entities to building healthier, informed and empowered employees who are equipped to contribute positively to their families, workplaces and communities.

Organisational Impact: Initiatives that support employee wellbeing strengthen workplace morale, encourage a healthy organisational culture, improve productivity and contribute to a more engaged and resilient workforce capable of delivering meaningful impact to the communities we serve.













IDFC Men's Imbizo







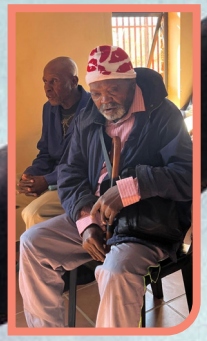
CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITIES

67 MINUTES Mandela day

In the spirit of service, the IDFC team spent Mandela Day at St. Antonine's Home for the Aged in Emakhasini Mission, Ladysmith. Essential food items and sleepwear was donated to support the dignity and wellbeing of our elderly residents. At IDFC, development goes beyond business. It is about building caring, resilient communities across KwaZulu-Natal.

"It is in your hands to make a difference." Nelson Mandela

















2026 KZN LIQUOR INDABA AND BUSINESS EXPO

The 2026 KZN Liquor Indaba and Business Expo commenced today at Sibaya Casino & Entertainment Kingdom under the theme, "Repositioning the Liquor Sector for Innovative Regulation, Responsibility in Practice, and Inclusive Growth."

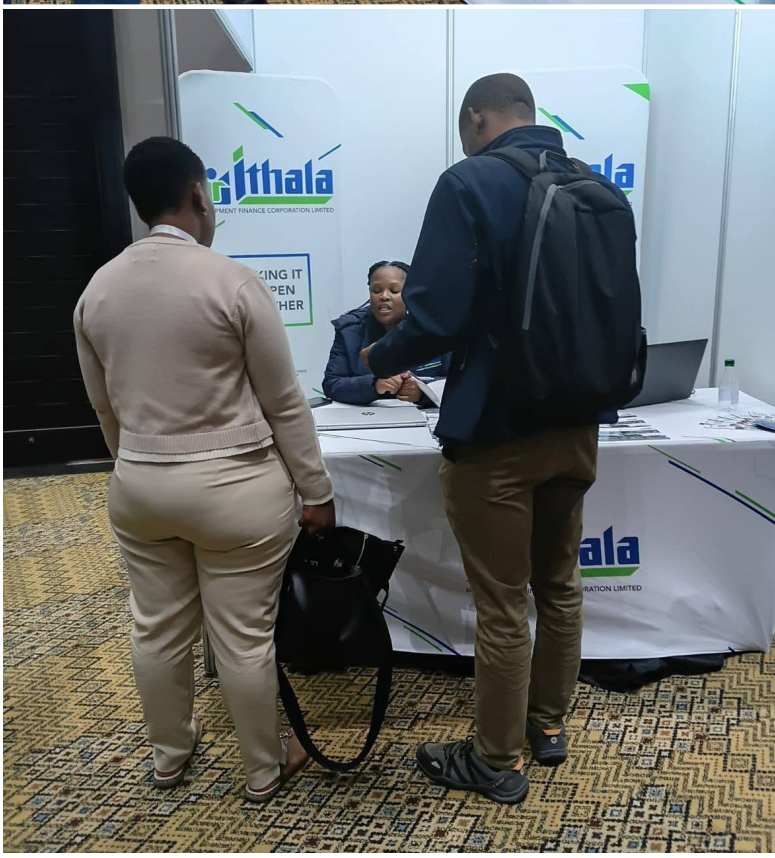
The event brings together government leaders, industry stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and regulatory bodies to engage on the future of the liquor sector and inclusive economic growth.

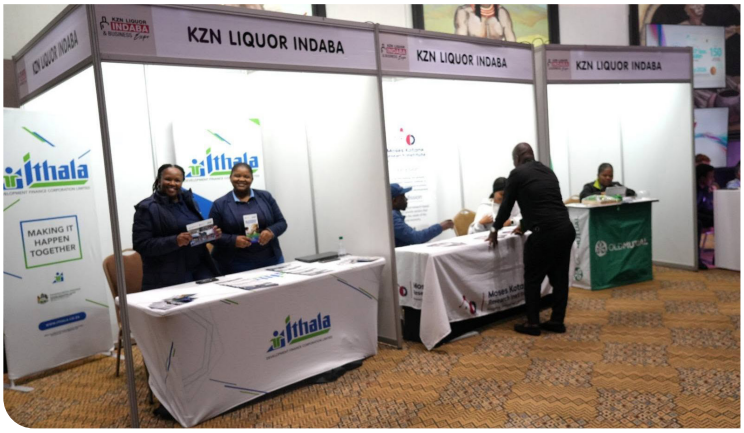
Ithala Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) participated in Day 1 of the expo, engaging with stakeholders and showcasing its business support services aimed at empowering enterprises across KwaZulu-Natal.





IDFC Help desk at the KZN Liquor Indaba and Business Expo





INVESTING IN YOUTH, **INVESTING IN THE FUTURE**

The spirit of 1976 was alive in KwaZulu-Natal as the Provincial Government, together with IDFC, marked the 50th anniversary of the Soweto Youth Uprising. It was a day to honour the courage of young people who refused to accept injustice and chose to change the direction of South Africa.

Standing among leaders and youth was IDFC Stakeholder Engagement Manager, *Andile Mabaso*, attending as IDFC represantative. She represented the diverse ways IDFC continues to walk alongside young people opening doors to funding and opportunities that help shape a stronger future.

The commemoration was more than remembrance. It was full of knowledge, productive dialogues, and real engagements. Panels and conversations gave youth a voice, while organisations like IDFC shared practical pathways to uplift and empower the next generation.

From the stories of 1976 to the dreams of 2026, one message was clear: the fight for a better South Africa continues, and the youth are still leading it.

For IDFC, being part of this milestone was not just about looking back. It was a pledge to keep investing in young people, because uplifting the youth means uplifting the nation.

IDFC remains committed to helping young entrepreneurs transform their ideas into sustainable enterprises that contribute to economic growth and employment creation. Economic Impact: Youth entrepreneurship and skills development are essential drivers of future economic growth, innovation and job creation.









KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Inspiring New Hope

ithala
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

READY TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS?



WHETHER YOU ARE STARTING A NEW VENTURE, EXPANDING AN EXISTING ENTERPRISE, INVESTING IN MANUFACTURING, OR LOOKING FOR COMMERCIAL PREMISES, IDFC IS READY TO SUPPORT YOUR GROWTH JOURNEY.

Through tailored funding solutions, business advisory support and a diverse portfolio of commercial and industrial properties, IDFC is helping entrepreneurs and businesses create jobs, unlock opportunities and build a stronger KwaZulu-Natal economy.

Partner with IDFC and be part of driving economic growth and transformation across our province

TALK TO US FOR HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RATES

031 9078911 | talktous@ithala.co.za **@Ithala Development Finance Corporation** **@MyIDFC**

MAKING IT HAPPEN TOGETHER

SISONKE SENZA KWENZEKE

WWW.ITHALA.CO.ZA

Ithala is an Authorised Financial Services and Credit Provider. FSP Licence NO. 17125 NCRCP No. 610