

Awards to showcase KZN's top businesses

NETWORK REPORTER

KWAZULU-NATAL has broadly been considered a breeding ground for numerous small and medium businesses that have gone on to become national corporations.

This year, industrial businesses as diverse as Tongaat-Hulett and Elma Engineering, Alltube, Ilembe Technologies and Jonsson Group are competing in the annual FNB KZN Top Business Portfolio Awards.

The awards are a platform to honour great performance, both in the private-sector workplace and in government organisations, which contributes to the socio-economic growth of KwaZulu-Natal.

According to FNB KZN provincial executive David Montsho: "As KZN is one of the bank's top-performing provinces in terms of sales, service, audit, innovations, people and profitability, it is only fitting that we should be integrally linked to these awards."

He said it was essential to showcase the positive contributions made by industrial players in the KZN economy, to build local and global investor confidence in the province, given the currently volatile international markets.

"It is in line with the present



GRANT ADLAM, chief executive of KZN Top Business Portfolio Awards and Pearl Coral4 (left) with publisher Laila Dhasiar-Ventura (centre) and David Montsho, provincial executive at FNB KZN, one of the competition entrants

trend of promoting sustainable growth in South Africa," said Montsho.

"The top accolades of the KwaZulu-Natal Top Business Portfolio Awards, said that by private partnership that is now active in development projects in KwaZulu-Natal. Together, organisations can achieve what a single entity does not have the capacity, skills or resources to implement."

Grant Adlam, CEO of the KwaZulu-Natal Top Business Portfolio Awards, said that by communicating the achievements of successful companies in KwaZulu-Natal, they might serve as an inspiration to others to do

business in the province.

"This year, a record 150 nominations were submitted for consideration – a sign of the vibrant business environment in KZN and acceptance of the awards as the indicator of business success in the province," he said.

Achievements in each of the major sectors as specified by the South African Standard Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC) will be awarded.

Municipal awards for investment promotion, and for the most pro-active government department promoting socio-economic growth, are also set to be handed out at the event.

Nominations across the sectors in 2008 include:

□ **Agriculture:** Tongaat-Hulett Ltd, Illovo Sugar Ltd, and NCI Forestry Co-Operative;

□ **Mining:** Richards Bay Minerals, Corobrik, and NPC Cimpor;

□ **Manufacturing:** aQuellé Buckman Laboratories, Alltube SA Shipyards, Elma Engineering Works, and Foskor Richards Bay;

□ **Construction:** Group 5 KZN J T Ross, Liviero;

□ **Trade:** Mr Price, Spar Group KZN, iTalk Cellular, Afagri Producer Services;

□ **Transport:** Grindroc

Limited, Richards Bay Coal Terminal, Safmarine;

□ **Utilities:** Umgeni Water, Mhlathuze Water;

□ **Business and Financial Services:** DRG Siyaya, Shepstone & Wylie, Ilembe;

□ **Technologies:** The Development House, and Woodhead, Bigby & Irving;

□ **Community and Social Services:** KZN NonSource, Mancosa and The UKZN Graduate School of Business; and

□ **Tourism:** Gooderson Leisure, The Stables Wine Estate, Durban Tourism.

Finalists were selected by business professionals during more than five weeks of judging.

The results were audited by Roshan Morar & Associates, an independent management and professional services firm based in Pietermaritzburg. Winners will be announced during a gala event at Durban's International Convention Centre tomorrow night. A complete list of nominees can be viewed at www.topbusiness.co.za.

The gala coincides with the launch of the KwaZulu-Natal Top Business Portfolio, which is produced as a printed document on CD-Rom, and with e-zine formats available on the website www.kzntopbusiness.co.za.

