

An underwater scene with several fish swimming in clear blue water. Sunlight rays filter down from the surface, creating a serene and natural environment. The fish are of various sizes and species, including what appear to be sea breams and smaller fish.

BUSINESS SEMINAR · STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

Siyakwazi Marine Skills Development

Skilling youth for the ocean economy — training the future generation of the blue economy in KwaZulu-Natal.

Richards Bay · uMhlatuze | eThekweni · KwaZulu-Natal

Seminar Agenda

01

Welcome & Opening

Introductions, purpose of the seminar and vision for the day.

02

Who We Are

The Siyakwazi Marine Skills Development Centre and its mandate.

03

The Blue Economy

Ocean economy opportunity and the role of the city.

04

Skills & Youth

Flagship programmes, youth enrichment and progression pathways.

05

Partnerships

Stakeholder roles, collaboration model and expected outcomes.

06

Way Forward

Commitments, next steps and how to stay connected.

ABOUT US

Skilling the Ocean Generation

The Siyakwazi Marine Skills Development Centre is a KwaZulu-Natal training initiative based at Lot 223, uMhlatuze, near Richards Bay. Our mission is simple:

to skill and train the future generation on the ocean.

ESTABLISHED

Registered maritime skills development centre

HOME BASE

Lot 223, uMhlatuze · Richards Bay, KZN

FOCUS

Aquaculture, maritime & ocean safety skills

LEARNERS

Unemployed youth aged 18–29



Vision & Mission

VISION

An inclusive ocean economy where young South Africans are skilled, employed and leading in the blue economy of their own cities.

MISSION

- Deliver practical, accredited marine and aquaculture skills training.
- Open real pathways to work, enterprise and further study for youth.
- Partner with government, ports, industry and schools to grow the blue economy.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Blue Economy

South Africa's 3 000 km coastline and Africa's busiest port put the ocean economy at the centre of jobs and growth.



3 000 km

of South African coastline along
global trade routes

Busiest

Durban is the busiest container
port in Africa

Phakisa

Operation Phakisa targets the
oceans economy

Youth

A skills pipeline for unemployed
young people

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

40-Day Aquaculture Programme

An intensive, hands-on programme that equips unemployed youth with practical aquaculture and marine skills at our uMhlatuze centre.

Duration 40 days of intensive, practical training

Who applies Unemployed youth aged 18–29

Where Lot 223, uMhlatuze · Richards Bay

Outcome Job-ready skills for the ocean economy



Skills Development Pillars

1

Aquaculture & Fisheries

Fish farming, hatchery operations and sustainable harvesting practices.

2

Maritime & Seamanship

Vessel safety, boat handling and foundational seafaring skills.

3

Ocean Safety & Life-Saving

Water rescue, first aid and beach and coastal safety awareness.

4

Enterprise & Employability

Work readiness, small-business skills and career progression.

Progression Pathways for Youth

Every learner moves along a clear pathway — from recruitment to real economic participation.

1

Recruit

Reach unemployed youth aged 18–29 in the community.

2

Train

Intensive practical skilling in ocean-economy trades.

3

Mentor

Discipline, work-readiness and personal development.

4

Progress

Placement, enterprise or further study opportunities.



The Local Blue Economy

Skilling local youth returns direct value to the city and its communities.

Jobs & Livelihoods

New entrants for ports, fisheries, tourism and marine services.

Youth Employment

Fewer unemployed young people; more economically active citizens.

Local Enterprise

Small businesses and cooperatives rooted in the ocean economy.

Safer Coasts

Trained life-savers and safety awareness along city beaches.

Skills Pipeline

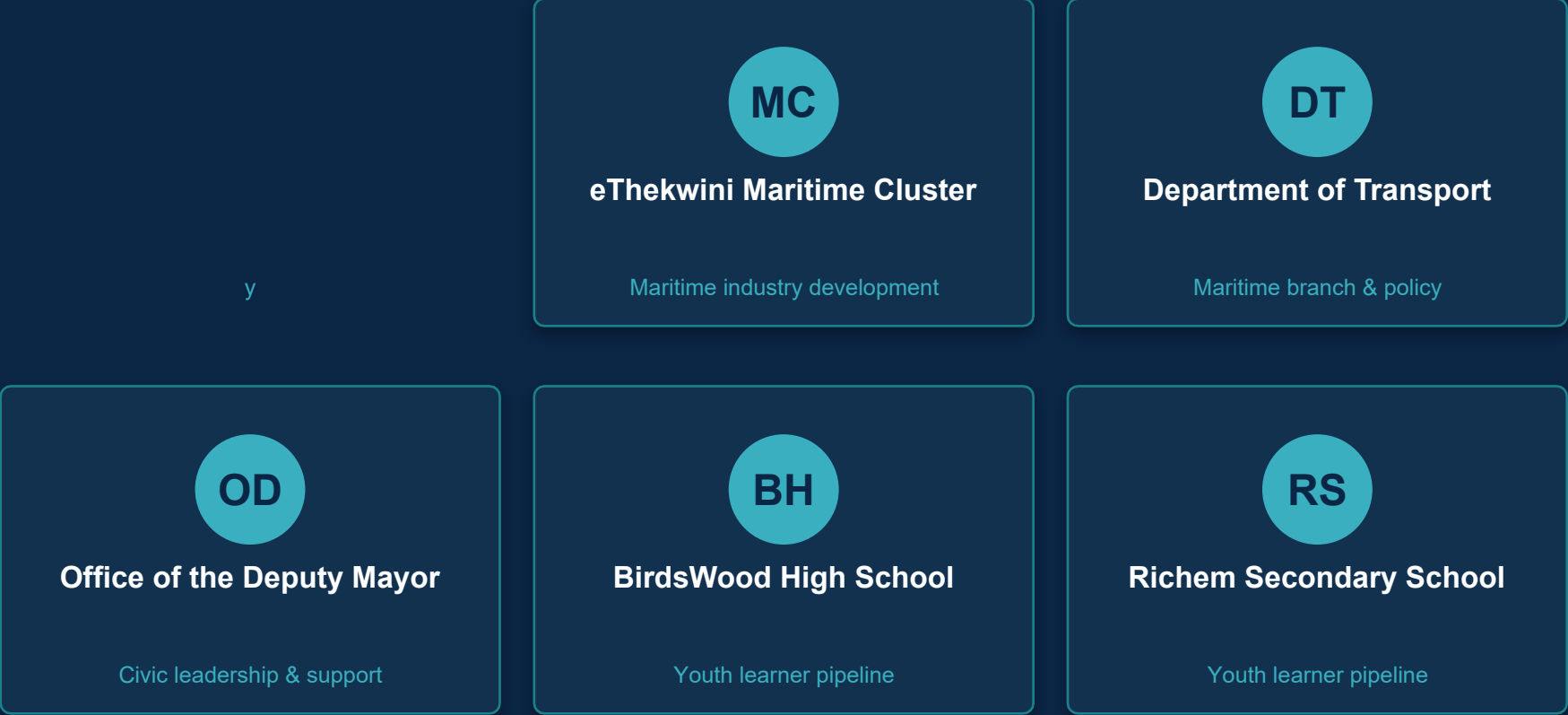
A steady talent pool feeding the maritime and blue sectors.

Inclusive Growth

Shared prosperity that reaches historically excluded communities.

Our Stakeholders

Our partners join us for this seminar — from government and ports to schools and civic leadership.



Stakeholder Roles

Government

- Dept. of Transport — maritime policy & standards
- DFFE — oceans economy & fisheries mandate

Civic Leadership

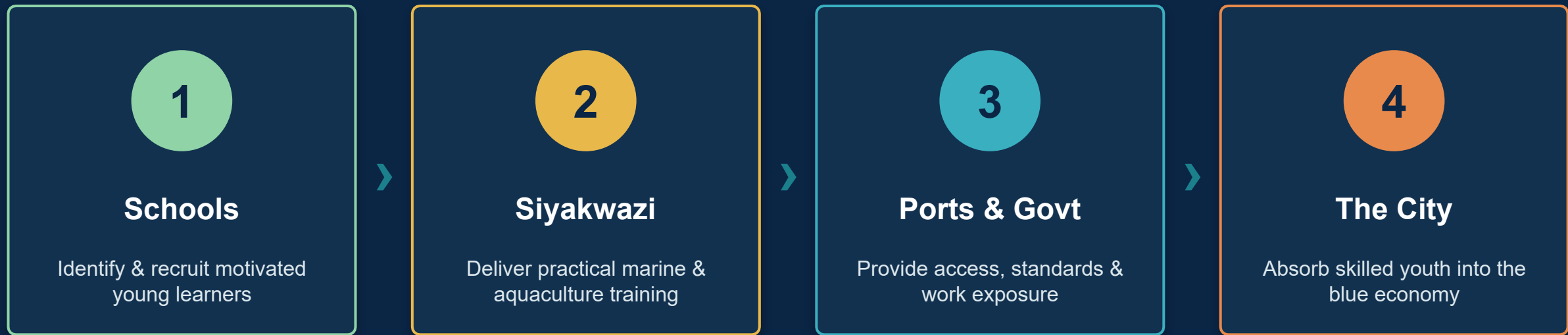
- Deputy Mayor — local support & advocacy
- eThekweni Maritime Cluster — coordination & funding links

Education

- BirdsWood High School — learner recruitment
- Richem Secondary School — learner recruitment

Partnership Model

A shared model that turns collaboration into skilled, employed youth.



Together, we build a self-sustaining pipeline from the classroom to the ocean economy.

Expected Outcomes & Impact

Youth Skilled

Cohorts of unemployed youth trained each intake cycle

Job Pathways

Placement, enterprise and further-study routes opened

Safer Coasts

More trained life-savers active on local beaches

Blue Economy

A growing local talent pool for the ocean economy

Our shared goal

Turn the ocean on our doorstep into skills, jobs and dignity for young people — and lasting value for the city.

Next Steps

1

Commit

Confirm each partner's role and contribution to the programme.

2

Formalise

Sign a simple memorandum of understanding between partners.

3

Launch

Recruit the next youth cohort and begin the training cycle.

4

Review

Track outcomes together and scale what works.

THANK YOU

Let's skill the ocean generation, together.

Follow the journey of the Siyakwazi Marine Skills Development Centre — training, graduations and life on the ocean.

youtube.com/@SiyakwaziMarine

Siyakwazi Marine Skills Development Centre · Richards Bay · eThekweni · KZN



Scan to watch

[Siyakwazi Marine on YouTube](https://youtube.com/@SiyakwaziMarine)