



PHOTO: NTANDOYENKOSI DLAMINI

From left: Ugu acting mayor Sphumlile Mthiyane with KZN MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Peggy Nkonyeni, and Ray Nkonyeni mayor Nomusa Mqwebu.

Summit boosts women, youth

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SOUTH Coast youth and women took centre stage at the Women and Youth in Construction and Property Management Summit hosted by the KZN MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Peggy Nkonyeni, last Thursday at the Port Shepstone Civic Centre.

According to Nkonyeni, the objective of the summit was to empower women and young people keen on partaking in the multi-billion construction and property management sectors.

The summit also aimed to expose women and

young people to these critical multi-billion rand sectors while showcasing the opportunities afforded to the youth and women in construction and property management.

“The programme is aimed at bringing positive change to young people of our province through training, education and business opportunities. Infrastructure development is a key driver of the economy and an area in which our young people deserve a much larger stake,” said Nkonyeni.

She pointed out that there is still much more to be done to create access and success as far as youth empowerment is concerned. Ugu acting mayor Sphumlile Mthiyane and Ray Nkonyeni mayor Nomusa Mqwebu attended the summit where the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) had their stands for women and youth to access information. There were also presentations on bursary applications, oceans economy, internship programmes, the department’s contribution to the fourth industrial revolution and work integrated learning offerings in the department.

“This also provided an opportunity for us to engage with our youth about their expectations, frustrations and further unnecessary red tape. The current situation of poverty and increasing inequality is a huge threat to our democracy.

We are a nation with huge resources and huge opportunities that have to be shared more equitably,” explained Nkonyeni. Ugu acting mayor Mthiyane said they are thankful to the MEC for bringing the summit to the Ugu district.

“The prioritisation of our youth and women will never go unnoticed. We are fully behind such initiatives. Now the challenge is on both the youth and women because they have to ensure their full participation,” said Mthiyane.