

Reviving Durban’s Maritime Heritage

Investment Insights ahead: Industry Development In KZN

African Boating Conference 2026

Captain Londy Ngcobo

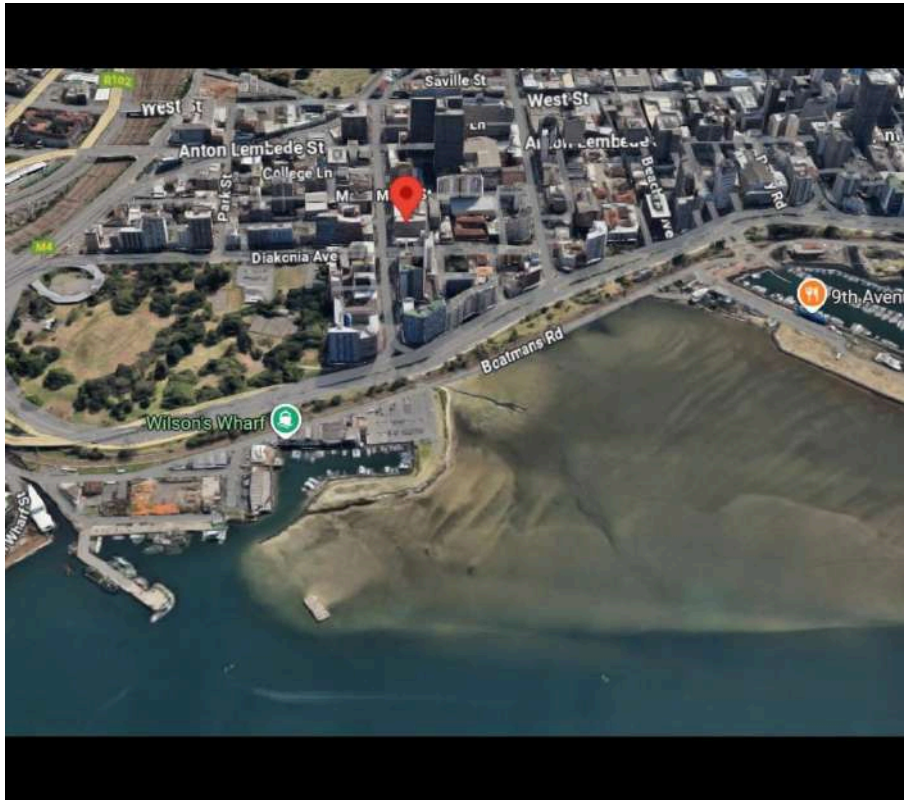
01 The Time Has Come.

A new chapter in Durban's maritime economy

A major African port.
A wider maritime future.

Durban can build a superyacht destination alongside its commercial cargo strength.

Longer stays. Local refit work.
More value retained in KwaZulu-Natal.



02 Why the potential remained underdeveloped

Four barriers held back a dedicated superyacht offer

Cargo first mindset

Port planning prioritised containers and bulk cargo.

A gap in dedicated facilities and infractructure

40m+ yachts need suitable berths and specialist refit services.

Destination positioning / perception

Durban needed a stronger international luxury-yachting profile.

Missed economic opportunities

Town and Viareggio show how visits can support local industry.

The task is to connect our existing maritime capability to a new market.

03 The decision to embark

Market opportunity met an economic imperative

WHY NOW?

A changing travel market

Post-pandemic tourism opened new destination opportunities.

Jobs and investment

KZN needs more skilled work, diversified income and foreign investment.

A platform for delivery

Presidential eThekwini Working Group (PeWG)

Inner-City Regeneration Programme (ICR)

City leadership placed the superyacht opportunity on the agenda.

04 The global footprint

Italy opened the relationship. Monaco strengthened it.



ITALY / MARCH 2026

NAVIGO engagement and the public handover of Durban’s Letter of Intent.



MONACO / SEPTEMBER 2026

Global industry engagement under the NAVIGO umbrella.

A proposed Mediterranean–Eastern Seaboard route, with Durban as an entry point.

05 Why NAVIGO? Why YARE?

A route into the global superyacht supply chain

230+

member companies

A Viareggio-based network connecting captains, shipyards and specialist suppliers.

2026–2028

Three years of YARE hosting authorised by Council in July 2026.

Durban provides the local platform.
NAVIGO connects the international industry.

26 NOVEMBER 2026
Moses Mabhida Stadium

Industry-wide opportunity for collaboration.

06 The vision for Durban Bay

A premier superyacht hub with measurable local benefits

R1.9bn

private investment ambition

2,500+

direct jobs targeted by 2030

Refit and repair. Berthing. Marine manufacturing.
A stronger local supplier economy.

TNPA Ship Repair & Manufacturing Plan and Oceans Economy Master Plan 2035



07 Preparing the gateway

Local work ahead of the international visitors

18 NOVEMBER 2026

Planned Wilson’s Wharf precinct clean-up



BEFORE



AFTER

Maritime Place: rubble removal recorded in the October assessment

Precinct readiness

Cleaning, sanitation, paving, lighting and safer access.

Local yacht clubs

Engagement to connect sailing expertise with the supply chain.

Cape Town, African boating conference.

National engagement on coastal routes and shared expertise.

08 Restoring our city's pride

The visitor experience continues beyond the harbour



THE PROMENADE

An established waterfront asset to maintain and build on.

Promenade photograph: completed extension



THE WIMPY-AREA REDEVELOPMENT

137 Lower Marine Parade Construction expected January 2027

Artist's impression: proposed development

ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

09 Skills alignment and local capacity

The opportunity must reach our young people and businesses

Training partners

Align Ethekwini Maritime Cluster, Sandock Austria Shipyards, Sail Africa, STC, Womaritime Experts training programmes etc

The youth pipeline

Build pathways with DUT, UKZN and TVET colleges.

Technical capability

Marine engineering, carbon fibre skills and yacht maintenance.

SMME participation

Provisioning, hospitality and logistics that meet yacht-service standards.

Training linked to work placements and real procurement opportunities

10

Durban is open for yachting business

The tide has turned

The world is coming to Durban. Let’s be ready.

Government and port partners

Enable infrastructure, precinct readiness and clear implementation.

Investors and industry

Bring operating expertise, capital and supplier opportunities.

Skills institutions and communities

Connect young people and local businesses to the work ahead.

YARE SYMPOSIUM IS COMING TO DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN



ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

11 YARE is coming to South Africa

Durban invites you to collaborate

YARE ON TOUR

26 November 2026

Moses Mabhida Stadium, Durban

Come and learn. Ask the questions.

Explore how we can build this industry together.

Speak to us about participation
and opportunities to collaborate.



YATCHING AFTERSALES AND REFIT EXPERIENCE

The next port of call: Durban

ALL HANDS ON DECK.

There's no better tool or equipment you can have onboard than a well-trained crew –
Larry Pardey

Let's chart Durban's next chapter together.

Thank you

Capt. Londy Ngcobo :
londy@womaritime.com
+27 71 879 5034

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