

Student Services Office Celebrates Women's Day with Team building at uShaka Marine



On Friday, 15 August 2025, the Student Services Office staff commemorated Women's Day with a memorable and engaging team-building outing at uShaka Marine World. This event offered staff an opportunity to step away from the formal office environment and embrace a day of collaboration, laughter, and meaningful connection. While the occasion did not include formal meetings or presentations, it was carefully designed to foster teamwork, celebrate collective effort, and strengthen the bonds between colleagues.



The day began with a palpable sense of excitement as staff members gathered at the venue. The *War of Cries* activity set the tone, immediately igniting enthusiasm and playful competition among teams. Participants expressed their creativity, energy, and team spirit in a lively atmosphere that would continue throughout the day. This opening exercise, while light-hearted, subtly reinforced an important principle, that each individual's contribution matters to the success of the group.

Following the energetic start, teams embarked on a series of engaging challenges designed to promote problem-solving, collaboration, and observation skills. Among these was the search for “Shaka’s teeth,” which required participants to work together to locate hidden items within the marine park. This task encouraged communication, strategy, and mutual support, creating an early sense of accomplishment and camaraderie.

Another highlight involved exploring the life cycles of fish, an interactive activity that not only educated staff about marine life but also provided a platform for teamwork and shared learning. Alongside this, staff enjoyed moments of levity and creativity while taking selfies with the iconic orange-and-white clownfish, affectionately known as Nemo. These moments offered a playful contrast to the more challenging activities, reminding participants of the importance of joy and spontaneity in collaborative work environments.



The exploration continued with a visit to the penguins’ habitat, allowing staff to appreciate the natural behaviors of these remarkable creatures while reinforcing within their teams. In addition to these discovery-based activities, participants engaged in several physical and strategic games that encouraged trust and cooperation. Paddle boat races, the IQ challenge, and the ice cream feeding game which required partners to feed one another without spills brought laughter, friendly competition, and moments of shared triumph.

Further emphasizing unity and collaboration, staff participated in exercises that required simultaneous coordination and mutual support. In the “walking at the same time” game, groups of three had to lift and move each other forward in unison. Similarly, activities such as puzzle-solving,

drawing the African continent collectively, and the “no ball touch” challenge tested the groups’ ability to communicate effectively, strategize, and rely on one another. Each activity carried a subtle but important message: individual efforts are most effective when combined with the support and collaboration of the team.

Throughout the day, laughter and encouragement echoed across uShaka Marine, highlighting the positive energy and genuine connections formed among staff. The event was not only a celebration of Women’s Day but also a testament to the office’s dedication to creating a cohesive and supportive work culture. By engaging in these collaborative exercises, staff experienced firsthand the power of working together and the value of mutual trust and respect in achieving shared goals.



The day’s activities offered multiple layers of learning and reflection. Beyond physical and cognitive challenges, participants were reminded of the importance of empathy, patience, and encouragement in fostering a productive and harmonious workplace. The inclusive nature of the event ensured that every staff member could contribute, shine, and enjoy the experience, reinforcing the institution’s commitment to staff engagement and well-being.

By the conclusion of the outing, staff members left uShaka Marine with renewed energy, strengthened bonds, and a deeper appreciation for one another’s contributions. The day provided tangible examples of

teamwork in action, illustrating that challenges whether in a marine park or the office are best met collectively. Beyond the playful games and memorable experiences, the event served as a reminder of the broader purpose of Women’s Day: celebrating achievements, fostering solidarity, and promoting environments where everyone can thrive. The Student Services Office continues to prioritise initiatives that encourage collaboration, staff well-being, and team cohesion.



This Women's Day team-building experience exemplifies the office's commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for connection, growth, and shared enjoyment. Staff left with smiles, laughter, and memories captured in photos that will serve as a lasting reminder of the day: a day where unity, teamwork, and the spirit of Women's Day were celebrated in the most engaging and human way.

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