

# DUT 'is the greenest'

## The 2013 Campus Initiative award comes to KZN's Durban University of Technology

SANDILE MOTHA

IT'S official! The Durban University of Technology (DUT) is the greenest campus in the land.

DUT scooped the 2013 award for the best institution with Green Campus Initiative in the African Green Campus Initiative recently held at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

The institution eliminated Tshwane University of Technology, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, University of Limpopo and their neighbours Mangosuthu University of Technology to come up tops in the annual conference. Agci is a concept conceived in 2011 as South Africa was preparing to host the global COP17 conference held at Durban's ICC that December.

It was established with the aim of promoting environmental sustainability and climate change interventions at colleges and universities campuses in South Africa.

The formation of Agci was reinforced by the belief that colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modelling ways to minimise global warming emissions and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality.

Agci DUT chairperson Lebo Zwane said: "We launched the initiative on campus in 2012 and winning this award shows there is something we are doing right. Through Agci we have managed to incorporate other programmes which encourage environmental sustainability into our green campaign.

"Some programmes we do are fashion shows where students are encouraged to



**NATURE FRIENDLY: The Durban University of Technology is greener than its competitors.**

use recyclable material to make garments and we also have music and dance competition where students compose a song that pushes the campaign of conserving nature."

The initiative was adopted by DUT's Residence Life and was the only partici-

pating institution in KZN until MUT followed suit recently.

Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande is also supporting the initiative.

Agci is funded by the Southern African Chapter of the Association of Colleges and University Housing Officers International.

KZN Agci regional coordinator Sifundo Nkosi hailed the institution.

He said there was a lot of improvement at DUT, considering the initiative was only launched in August last year and in the same year they came second.

*provinces@thenewage.co.za*