

Company: NJMPF, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Nomination Submitted by: KwaZulu-Natal Joint Municipal Pension/Provident Funds

Company Description: Established during 1942, the Fund administrates 3 Funds namely; the Superannuation and Retirement Fund which are Defined Benefit Funds, and the Provident Fund which is a Defined Contribution Fund. Our Funds provide pension benefits for municipal employees in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Our vision is to provide superior retirement services and benefits to our stakeholders.

Nomination Category: Sustainability Categories

Nomination Sub Category: Sustainability Product of the Year - in the Middle East and Africa

Nomination Title: Driving sustainable growth across economic, social, and environmental spheres in South Africa

1. Which will you submit for your nomination in this category, a video of up to five (5) minutes in length about the achievements of the nominated organization since 1 January 2023, OR written answers to the questions for this category? (Choose one):

Written answers to the questions

2. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the nominated video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video.
3. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this first question: Briefly describe the nominated organization: its history and past performance (up to 200 words):

Total 160 words used.

The KwaZulu-Natal Joint Municipal Pension/Provident Funds (NJMPF) is a public sector retirement fund that manages the pensions of local government employees in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Established in 1942, the Fund has grown into a leading institution with nearly R40 billion in assets under management and a proven track record of clean audits and long-term financial sustainability.

NJMPF exists not only to preserve and grow members' retirement savings but to act as a catalyst for sustainable economic development. With over 30,000 members and pensioners, the Fund plays a critical role in supporting local economies through benefit disbursements, responsible investments, and socially conscious operations.

Under the leadership of CEO Mr. Bongi Mkhize, NJMPF has embedded sustainability into its core strategy, championing initiatives that support economic inclusion, local development, digital transformation, and green operations. The Fund has taken bold steps to ensure its service offerings reflect a commitment to a more resilient, empowered, and environmentally aware future for KwaZulu-Natal and its people.

4. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this second question: Outline the organization's achievements since the beginning of 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words):

Total 199 words used.

Since January 2023, NJMPF has introduced a range of service offerings and initiatives aimed at improving economic and operational sustainability, ensuring that the Fund's impact goes beyond pensions to uplift the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Key achievements include:

- Investment in Oceans Tower and Mall in KZN, a major infrastructure project designed to stimulate job creation, support local commerce, and build long-term value for both communities and members. This strategic investment reflects NJMPF's focus on locally anchored, socially impactful property development.
- To prepare for the implementation of the Two-Pot Retirement System, NJMPF hired and trained unemployed graduates to assist with claims processing and member education. This not only improved service delivery capacity but contributed to youth employment and skills development in the region.
- The Fund launched a Digital Member Services Hub, significantly reducing paper usage, courier emissions, and administrative inefficiencies, delivering sustainability through innovation and reducing the environmental impact of day-to-day operations.
- NJMPF implemented a green events strategy, including digital invites, hybrid formats (such as the 2025 AIM), and the elimination of single-use materials.

These efforts represent a comprehensive approach to sustainable service delivery, blending economic development, environmental responsibility, and social inclusion to ensure long-term value for members and communities alike.

5. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this third question: Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other players in your industry and/or to the organization's past performance (up to 250 words):

Total 205 words used.

What makes NJMPF's sustainability achievements stand out is the Fund's holistic and inclusive interpretation of sustainability, one that goes beyond environmental practices to include economic upliftment, youth empowerment, and infrastructure development that benefits society.

In 2023–2024, NJMPF strategically invested in Oceans Mall and Tower, contributing to a major commercial development that has already begun to revive the regional economy of KwaZulu-Natal by creating jobs, attracting new tenants, and providing retail and office space for local businesses. Unlike traditional funds that outsource investments to offshore assets, NJMPF prioritises local, long-term projects that benefit its members and the communities they live in.

Another unique and timely achievement was the recruitment of unemployed graduates to support the Two-Pot claims rollout, an initiative that not only eased administrative strain but also provided meaningful employment and skills development at a time of high youth unemployment in South Africa.

The Fund's digital transformation, green operational shifts, and hybrid event model demonstrate NJMPF's commitment to environmental sustainability, while its investment strategy and employment practices reflect economic and social responsibility. Few public funds in South Africa have shown this level of integration between financial performance and social impact, placing NJMPF in a leadership position when it comes to sustainability in the retirement sector.

6. You have the option to answer this final question: Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words):

Total 86 words used.

To support this nomination, the following materials are available:

- Investment Portfolio Overview (2023–2024)
- Includes details of NJMPF's stake in Oceans Mall and other ESG-aligned investments.
- Highlights recruitment and training of unemployed youth for Two-Pot claims processing, including feedback from participants.
- 2025 AIM Video

NJMPF Website: www.njmpf.co.za

- Features ongoing updates on sustainability, governance, and fund performance.

These materials demonstrate NJMPF's role in driving sustainable growth across economic, social, and environmental spheres, setting a bold example for public sector institutions in South Africa and beyond.

Attachments/Videos/Links:

[Driving sustainable growth across economic, social, and environmental spheres in South Africa](#)

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