Conference Programme

Tuesday, 27 October 2026	
11h00–18h00	IMESA Golf Day
11h00–21h00	Conference ONSITE REGISTRATION – *Onsite Registration sponsored by uMngeni-uThukela Water*
17h30 for 18h00	**OPENING FUNCTION & INAUGURATION OF NEW PRESIDENT**
Wednesday, 28 October 2026	
07h00–08h00	Onsite Registration Open – *Onsite Registration sponsored by uMngeni-uThukela Water*
08h10	MC opens the 1st day of Conference – *MC sponsored by KABE*
SESSION 1	
08h20	**Opening by IMESA President**
08h30	**ADDRESS by SALGA Representative**
08h40	**ADDRESS by the City**
08h50–09h50	**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Refilwe Buthelezi** – *Keynote Speaker sponsored by ZUTARI*
09h50	**ADDRESS by ANCHOR SPONSOR:** *uMngeni-uThukela Water*
10h00	**IMESA YP²**
10h10	*Promotion of 2027 IMESA Conference*
10h15	**REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN EXHIBITION HALL** – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS*
SESSION 2	
10h55	MC welcomes delegates to Session 2 – *MC sponsored by KABE*
11h00–11h30	**PAPER 1: Christa Liebenberg** *"Leading calm amidst Chaos: Are you the pressure cooker that is about to explode?"*
11h30–12h00	**PAPER 2: Shawn Johnson** *"Cost-Effective flood forecasting for municipal disaster management systems"*
12h00–12h30	**PAPER 3: Erika Braune & Mike Wiese** *"Rethinking design compliance: Lessons learned to enhance flood resilience and safety"*
12h30	Questions from the floor
12h40	**LUNCH SERVED IN EXHIBITION HALL** – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS*
SESSION 3	
13h40	MC welcomes delegates to Session 3 – *MC sponsored by KABE*
13h50–14h20	**ECSA Presentation**
14h50	Questions from the floor
15h00–16h00	**PANEL DISCUSSION: *"Cities Under Pressure: Rethinking Disaster Response"***
16h00	**REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN EXHIBITION HALL** – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS*
SESSION 4	
16h40	MC welcomes delegates to Session 4 – *MC sponsored by KABE*
16h50–17h20	**PAPER 4: Truman Hardon & Roxanne Canny** *"From Strategy to Implementation: Enabling measurable performance in the eThekwini Water & Sanitation Turnaround Strategy"*
17h20–17h50	**PAPER 5: James Hough & Theo Kleynhans** *"Blueprints Reimagined: An integrated water security strategy for a water-stressed municipality – The Prince Albert Town Case Study"*
17h50	Questions from the floor
18h00	Close of Conference Day 1
EVENING AT LEISURE	
Thursday, 29 October 2026	
07h00	Coffee in the Exhibition Hall – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS*
08h10	MC opens 2nd day of Conference – *MC sponsored by KABE*

SESSION 5	
08h20–08h50	**PAPER 6: Samista Jugwanth & Yasheen Harrielall** *"Digital enablement for municipal resilience: Moving beyond fragmented initiatives to practical, phased progress"*
08h50–09h20	**PAPER 7: Johan Basson** *"Engineering Service Response to future densification through backyard dwellers, informal settlements and small-scale rental units"*
09h20–09h50	**PAPER 8: Vhuhwavho Pertunia Mudau** *"Experimental evaluation of fly ash and steel dust for eco-friendly mortars in low-cost housing in South Africa"*
09h50–10h20	**PAPER 9: Sihle Ndumiso Ngema** *"Recent geometric design research: Extracting actionable practices for municipal road upgrades"*
10h20	Questions from the floor
10h30	**REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN EXHIBITION HALL** – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS*
SESSION 6	
11h10	MC welcomes delegates to Session 6 – *MC sponsored by KABE*
11h20–11h50	**PAPER 10: Mike Greatwood** *"Renavigating the water services amendment Bill: Implications, risks and strategic responses"*
11h50–12h20	**PAPER 11: Gerhard Vivier** *"The Knowledgeable Client: Organisational professionalisation as a strategic enabler of municipal infrastructure delivery, public safety and technical governance"*
12h20–12h50	**PAPER 12: Chris Wilcock** *"The Public Procurement Act has been declared invalid – what does this mean for a judiciously reimagined blueprint for effective procurement?"*
12h50	Questions from the floor
13h00	**LUNCH SERVED IN EXHIBITION HALL** – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS*
TECHNICAL TOURS for the afternoon	
14h00	Delegates depart for Technical Tours and return from Technical Tours at 17h00
14h30–16h30	**WORKSHOP: *National Urban Catchment and Rivers Management Platform***
14h30	PLENARY TECH TOUR SESSION
18h30 to 23h30	**SOCIAL EVENING** **VENUE:** Durban Undersea Club (DUC) **THEME:** Beach Fest **DRESS CODE:** Beach chic/casual
Friday, 30 October 2026	
07h00	Coffee in the Exhibition Hall – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS*
08h10	MC opens last day of Conference – *MC sponsored by KABE*
SESSION 7	
08h20–08h50	**PAPER 13: Rapheal Bamisaye** *"A discussion on the application of recycled concrete aggregate in the built environment in South Africa"*
08h50–09h20	**PAPER 14: Anisur Rahman** *"Optimized flexible linings for a more sustainable riverbank protection comparing to the traditional riprap"*
09h20–09h50	**PAPER 15: Leonard Balakisten & Seelan Rajah** *"Smart Skies, Resilient Water: UAVS in Infrastructure Management - The role of drone technology in advancing water and sanitation management"*
09h50–10h20	**PAPER 16: Joshua Spooner & Ione Loots** *"Rethinking synthetic design storms: Evaluating clipped SCS-SA and Bimodal rainfall events for small urban catchments in eThekwini"*
10h20	Questions from the floor
10h30	**REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN EXHIBITION HALL** – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS*
SESSION 8	
11h10	MC welcomes delegates to Session 8 – *MC sponsored by KABE*
11h20–11h50	**PAPER 17: Leon Grobbelaar** *"Blueprints Reimagined: Preserving municipal landfill airspace as a strategic infrastructure asset – Why the cheapest tender often creates the most expensive landfill"*
11h50	Questions from the floor
12h00	**Conference Summary: Geoff Tooley**
12h20	**CLOSE-OFF FORMALITIES**
12h45	**Presidential Conference Closing & FINAL LUCKY DRAW** – *Lucky Draws sponsored by BLOC CONTRACTORS*
13h00–14h00	**LUNCH SERVED IN EXHIBITION HALL** – *Exhibition Hall sponsored by LIBER GRIDS* **CONFERENCE CLOSE**