

# PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO TOYOTA

BY MARILIE KALP

On 26 October 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa visited Toyota Prospection in Durban to launch the first-ever hybrid vehicle manufacturing line in Africa.



Team KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) was tasked with preparing food for 15 presidential representatives, including the President himself, as well as the Japanese ambassador. A total of 160 guests attended the main event, including Ethekezi Mayor, Mxolisi Kaunda, several other industry leaders and the media.

On the lunch menu were the following carefully curated dishes: Smoked Duck Agnolotti and Thyme Sabayon, Kingklip Pea Foam and Barley Tabbouleh. A Ginger and Chili Sorbet to cleanse the pallet and a Celebration of Chocolate to end the dining experience. Regional Executive Chef, Oliver Reddy, crafted the menu. The design, plus the look and feel were the brainchild of Marilie Kalp. Assisting the team were chefs Luke Reddy, Regional Executive Chef Healthwise, Bevan Swartz, Lungelo Zungu, Lucas Nzama, Felix Vilekati, and Shivan Govendar as well as Toyota's very own acclaimed function chef Sanele Gqele.

The menu was inspired by KZN's environmental elements — an infusion of the ocean's salty air with the richness of the forest. The food was prepared according to the chefs attempts to express a sense of time, space, and nostalgia to the diners. Just a few metres away, the rest of the guests were treated to bowl-to-fork dishes and drinks, which were mini flavour explosions that embodied the essence of each main ingredient.

The event was our first post-COVID social gathering. Careful focus was placed on single-use utensils, individually plated portions and enforcing social distancing guidelines. The setup created a sense of safety and comfort for both guests and service staff. Following a memorable lunch, President Ramaphosa requested a group photo with our team. The day was certainly one to remember for all who attended.

