



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **EPWP IS A PROGRAM TO ELEVATE COMMUNITIES, NOT TO BE WEAPONIZED AGAINST THE PEOPLE.**

The Expanded Public Works Program is aimed at assisting young people who qualify to play an active role in the uplifting of provincial government assets and by extension their communities. The program also contributes towards job creation and employment.

It therefore becomes worrying when this honest program is weaponized against the very communities it aims to uplift. This happens when EPWP is used as a tool for political gain by local political leaders. This defeats the aim and purpose of EPWP.

EPWP is a neutral non-political program that is purely targeted towards skills development in various areas, among which includes artisanry with the added benefit that it significantly increases the employability of those taking part in the program.

This reminder comes as MEC Martin Meyer and KZN Public Works and Infrastructure officials have been hard at work to advance the EPWP offering through engagements and partnerships with the private sector, TVET colleges and various government departments. Just yesterday the MEC delivered his address before delegates gathered at the DEVAC Infrastructure Summit in Gauteng, where he engaged private sector players who can assist with expanding the EPWP program.

Therefore anything that seeks to undermine this progress, be through for political gains, or other means is very concerning for MEC Meyer and he, along with KZN Public Works and Infrastructure uncategorically denounce such acts.

**Statement issued by the Office of the MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure,**

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