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MEDIA ALERT

CALLING ALL ETHEKWINI CONTRACTORS: KWAZULU-NATAL PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT TO HOST CONTRACTORS IMBIZO TO ENGAGE WITH EXISTING AND NEW CONTRACTORS

On the 9th of June, the KwaZulu-Natal Public Works and Infrastructure Department will hold its inaugural Contractors Imbizo event in Durban. The event will be the first such where the department meets with and engages with at least 300 contractors as part of an initiative to strengthen and realign stakeholder relations.

Contractors play a very important role in KZN Public Works and Infrastructure's ability to deliver projects on time and within budget. MEC Martin Meyer has identified contractors as an extension of the department since their work ethic, quality and abilities are a direct reflection of the department's goals and vision. The prioritization of contractors continues to reflect in the series of interventions KZN Public Works and Infrastructure has put into place. These include:

- The prioritization of payments to contractors, which resulted in the reduction of a R900 million overdraft resulting in contractor invoice payments falling well within the 30-day payment period
- Intervening to deal with extortionists and other delays which have resulted in R250 million worth of project work resuming
- The establishment of the She Builds Women In Construction advisory body which prioritizes and provides dedicated support to women-led projects in KZN
- Strengthened inter-departmental relations and clients which has resulted in a reduced backlog of payments owed to KZN Public Works and Infrastructure which has enabled the department to pay contractors on time
- The establishment of the Interim Rapid Response Team which is dedicated to collaborating with contractors in order to unlock disrupted and stalled projects
- Transparent and written communication to contractors in relation to events of project and payment issues
- Collaboration and ongoing stakeholder meetings with law enforcement

During the BUILD KZN BETTER Contractors Imbizo, contractors will be able to interact directly with department officials and the MEC. In turn, department officials will also make presentations around various areas that have been identified as being of interest or conflict or concern for contractors such as:

- SCM (Supply Chain Management) processes
- Tender documentations
- SARS compliance
- Contractor gradings
- Project awarding and allocations
- Payment processes

These initiatives happen in the backdrop of several grievances that have been raised by numerous contractors who have faced several challenges with projects, payments and legislation, among other issues, while for the longest time these had gone unaddressed.

It is in this context that the Contractor Imbizo becomes a critical and overdue event which is held under the BUILD KZN BETTER banner which delivered a successful property management conference at the Durban ICC which was attended by over 500 delegates from across the province, country and Africa with several blueprint undertakings emerging from the event.

Media is invited to RSVP via the provided link in order to attend and cover the BUILD KZN BETTER Contractors Imbizo. There will also be an opportunity for interviews and photographs.

Details of the event as follows:

Date: 9 June, 2025

Time: 9 am

Venue: KZN Sharks Board & Conference Centre (1a Herrwood Drive, uMhlanga Ridge, uMhlanga, 4320)

For media enquiries:

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