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## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **MECs KHAWULA AND MEYER TO CONDUCT JOINT INSPECTION AT ICONIC R140 MILLION ENYOKENI CULTURAL AMPHITHEATRE**

On Tuesday, 17 June, the KwaZulu-Natal MECs for Sport, Arts and Culture; and Public Works and Infrastructure, Mntomuhle Khawula and Martin Meyer, respectively, will conduct a joint inspection of the newly completed R140 million eNyokeni Cultural Amphitheatre, in Nongoma, to be used as a venue to host Zulu cultural ceremonies, including the annual Umkhosi Womhlanga (Reed Dance).

Umkhosi Womhlanga sees thousands of maidens, amabutho, cultural enthusiasts, academics, international tourists, traditional leaders, government officials, among others, gather in the eNyokeni Royal Palace in Nongoma – northern KwaZulu-Natal to celebrate and appreciate the importance of abstinence, purity and virginity as a tool of building a strong, healthy and culturally conscious nation.

Previously, the cultural event, spanning several decades, was held in open grounds without formal structured accommodation for the participants and visitors.

The construction of the Amphitheatre is significant in that it will now adequately host attendees of the Reed Dance as led by AmaZulu King Misuzulu KaZwelithini as well as other significant Royal House events. The venue will serve as a multi-purpose facility that accommodates various needs including facilities for performers, visitors, logistical/storage and shelter for guests.

As an implementing agent for construction, for the KZN Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the eNyokeni Cultural Amphitheatre serves as a symbol of what can be achieved if local communities are included in projects that benefit them as seen by the creation of 100 employment opportunities through EPWP during the project construction. During an earlier visit in September last year local forums met with MEC Meyer and pledged their support for the project.

For the KZN Department of Sport, Arts and Culture the construction and completion of the Amphitheatre signals a positive shift in the recognition of cultural institutions, heritage and the Royal Household. Royal Palaces are an integral part of the Zulu Nation and as such their dignified modernization without any cultural erosion and compromise emphasises the Department's commitment to the preservation of our cultural, historical and heritage treasures.

The joint inspection by MECs Khawula and Meyer reflects how the Government of Provincial Unity is changing the lives of the people of this province for the better and inspiring new hope even in the most rural parts of KwaZulu-Natal.

**ENDS**

**Members of the media are invited to cover the visit as follows:**

**DATE:** 17 June 2025

**VENUE:** Enyokeni Royal Palace, Nongoma

**TIME:** 10H00

Kindly note that transport leaving Durban is available for those who require it. Please arrange with Mr Steve Bhengu or Mr Ntando Mnyandu.

**For media queries:**

**Steve Bhengu** – KZN Public Works and Infrastructure spokesperson – 083 681 7982 / 066 124 2776

**Ntando Mnyandu** – KZN Sports, Arts and Culture spokesperson - 060 329 0690

**Issued jointly by the KwaZulu-Natal Departments of Sport, Arts and Culture, and Public Works and Infrastructure.**