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MEDIA STATEMENT

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KZN PROJECTS RUN DISRUPTION-FREE FOR A YEAR, BOOSTED BY CONTRACTORS IMBIZO

Hundreds of contractors across KwaZulu-Natal have benefited from the Contractors Imbizo, a flagship programme of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. The final segment of this province-wide initiative was held today in Estcourt, in the Natal Midlands, marking the conclusion of a highly impactful sixmonth engagement process.

Launched on the 9th of June 2025, the programme saw the MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure, Martin Meyer, travelling extensively across the province to engage both emerging and established contractors seeking to do business with the department, and to enhance their business in the construction sector. The Imbizo provided an open platform for contractors to engage directly with departmental officials, industry leaders, financial institutions, and the MEC himself.

Through these engagements, contractors were empowered with critical information and support in several key areas, which include, Supply Chain Management (SCM) processes, tender documentation, SARS compliance, contractor grading, project awarding and allocation, payment procedures and funding from banks and other financial institutions.

The Imbizo was initiated in response to longstanding grievances raised by contractors regarding project disruptions by nefarious and illegal construction forums, delayed payments, legislative constraints, and bureaucratic inefficiencies that had gone unresolved for years. These challenges significantly hindered the growth and sustainability of the construction sector in the province.

Recognising the urgency of these issues, the Contractors Imbizo was convened under the **BUILD KZN BETTER** banner. One of the major highlights of the programme included a Property Management Conference hosted at the Durban ICC, which attracted over 500 delegates from across KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and the African continent. The conference produced several important blueprint initiatives aimed at strengthening the property and infrastructure management sectors.

To date, the Contractors Imbizo has recorded significant achievements, including:

- Department recording over a year of non-disruption of departmental projects from the 'Construction Mafia'
- The announcement to introduce the first virtual site briefings
- The unblocking of projects valued at over **R1 billion**
- The release of **108 properties** for public benefit
- The payment of **855 contractors** who had not received payment since July 2024
- The successful verification and audit of over **10 000 departmental assets**
- The empowerment of contractors through improved access to information, training opportunities, and strengthened partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders

During the last leg of the Imbizo, MEC Meyer reaffirmed the department's commitment to sustaining the momentum created by the Imbizo, noting that the initiative represents "a renewed drive to rebuild trust, improve service delivery, and ensure that KwaZulu-Natal's infrastructure projects are delivered efficiently, transparently, and responsibly."

MEC Meyer also concluded by stating that the department will strive to pay the contractors within the prescribed 30 days upon receiving invoices, strengthen financials controls to prevent corruption and will not tolerate shoddy workmanship from contractors who rob the department and the public. Meyer recommitted to an open-door policy which seeks to engage contractors beyond the Imbizo.

ENDS

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