



Private Bag X54336, DURBAN, 4000  
455a King Cetshwayo Highway, Mayville 4001

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **KZN PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO TAKE SERIOUS ACTION AGAINST DURBAN SCHOOL FOUND TO BE ILLEGALLY OPERATING A LOGISTICS COMPANY FROM SCHOOL PREMISES**

Today the MEC for the Department of KwaZulu-Natal and Infrastructure, Martin Meyer, led an oversight at a school in Durban which was using a portion of the school yard as a depot for buses and trucks as well as a mechanical yard. The visit follows an attempt by department officials to conduct an investigation last week but were met with hostility and were chased away.

The visit by the MEC today, who was joined by inspectors from the department, follows several complaints and tip-offs received. However, upon arrival the MEC and officials were met by a hostile Deputy Principal who refused to engage meaningfully.

Despite the non-cooperation, MEC Meyer and department officials proceeded to conduct an oversight as empowered custodians of all government properties and assets. The inspection found the following:

- The school, which is built on KZN Public Works and Infrastructure land, had misrepresented the type of business operating there to KZN Public Works and Infrastructure
- A bus and truck depot is operating on the school grounds which has raised numerous complaints of noise and safety of pupils as these heavy vehicles operate within school grounds
- Preliminary evidence points to violation of lawful demarcation
- A non-approved building was erected on the premises
- The bus and truck depot is built on school grounds where extracurricular platforms such as sports fields once existed, meaning learner-centred facilities were discarded to cater for the logistics business

During the oversight several members of the community came forward and shared how their concerns have been falling on deaf ears.

As a custodian and landlord of all provincial government assets, as empowered by the GIAMA ACT (Government Immovable Asset Management Act) KZN Public Works and Infrastructure has

a responsibility to ensure that properties are used for the legal and permissible purposes intended. This ensures that the department is liable for any of its properties in the event of structural defects, fires and other hazardous possibilities.

MEC Meyer emphasized that by-laws and land laws are there to protect, and therefore lawlessness will not be allowed, especially when it happens on properties belonging to KZN Public Works and Infrastructure.

END.

**For media enquiries:**

Steve Bhengu  
KZN Public Works and Infrastructure Spokesperson  
066 1242 766 / 083 681 7928