



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**OFFICE OF THE MEC**

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

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **KWAZULU-NATAL PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE MEC EXPRESSES DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE LATE UMHLATHUZE DEPUTY MAYOR, CHRISTO BOTHA**

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works and Infrastructure MEC, Martin Meyer, expresses deepest sympathy to family, friends and the community of uMhlathuze municipality following the passing of Deputy Mayor, Christo Botha. His passing follows several days in hospital after falling ill.

MEC Meyer has credited the late Botha as being a visionary who played a contributing role in turning around the city of uMhlathuze to one that consistently achieves clean audits and is now one of the most recognizable cities in the province.

His ability to be a visionary was evident during discussions and undertaking between the city of uMhlathuze and KZN Public Works and Infrastructure to find solutions to deal with the issue of unutilized and illegally occupied buildings that belong to the department. As an agreement solution the buildings, which are situated in the north coast municipality, would be given to the municipality for the purposes of meeting its people's needs which include low-cost housing, while saving the departments significantly in rates.

According to MEC Meyer this is the kind of commitment towards putting people first that defined the late Botha.

“Beyond his commitment to the people as a dedicated councillor of many years, Botha was someone who was also passionate about being the voice of the voiceless through his representation of marginalized communities who will be remembered for how he always stood for truth, even when it is not favourable”, said MEC Meyer.

Such values align with those of the KZN Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and as a means of honouring the late Deputy Mayor, these will continue to be the guiding principles of the department as it continues its commitment to build KZN better for all its citizens.

END.

**For media enquiries:**

Steve Bhengu

KZN Public Works and Infrastructure Spokesperson

066 1242 766 / 083 681 7928