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MEDIA STATEMENT

MEC MEYER HANDS OVER R240 MILLION SITE FOR THE BIGGEST PROJECT BY KZN PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE WITH A SPIN-OFF OF OVER 200 JOBS CREATED AND QUALITY HEALTHCARE FACILITY

Today MEC for the KwaZulu-Natal Public Works and Infrastructure Department MEC, Martin Meyer, officially handed over a site to the appointed contractor for the construction of a R240 million psychiatric hospital in Port Shepstone. This not only marked the beginning of the creation of over 230 jobs but also the biggest project undertaken by the department in recent years.

For MEC Meyer this project symbolizes a trust restoration exercise which KZN Public Works and Infrastructure has started embarking on. During his address, MEC Meyer told delegates in attendance that the results of this were already showing as seen by how the department has reduced irregular expenditure from a staggering R700 million to R0. The trust has also been rebuilt amongst contractors who have been paid well within 90 days over the past 9 months, and it is being recognized through the department winning the Best Innovative Department in Government award at the Premier's Excellence Awards event.

As a department this project is an opportunity to rebuild trust of client departments like the KZN Health Department where the MEC has been extensively on record about the need for the department to build better Health projects. MEC Meyer also took the opportunity to thank KZN Health MEC, Nomagugu Simelane, for still putting trust in KZN Public Works and Infrastructure to still deliver a quality project, on time and within budget.

MEC Meyer took a moment to open up about his personal relationship with mental health and depression and how mental health facilitates are no longer luxuries or nice-to-haves but an essential facility that caters to an area of health as equally important as physical wellbeing, if not more. Statistically, the MEC said 80% of people in KZN living with depression and mental health do not get the help they desperately need while nationally around 16,5% of the country's population suffer mental disorder with women and the unemployed suffering the most. This is why for KZN Public Works and Infrastructure it remains important that such critical and technical projects are delivered to the highest level of quality.

With 228 job opportunities created from the project, MEC Meyer, said he was pleased that KZN Public Works and Infrastructure was ticking the right boxes, especially in regions like Ugu which have seen the local economy take a knock.

The construction sector has shown quarter-by-quarter strength, and this will contribute towards that growth.

In his upcoming 2026/27 budget, MEC Meyer identifies the South Coast as one of the areas crucial to project and economic revitalization and that as a caring department of the Government of Provincial Unity KZN Public Works and Infrastructure intends to play its part in this regard.

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For media enquiries:

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