



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE MEC

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MEDIA ALERT

MEC MEYER TO HANDOVER CONTROVERSIAL WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE WHICH SPARKED CONTRACTOR PROTESTS

On Monday, 27 July, MEC for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Martin Meyer, will lead a handover of the controversial Woodlands Primary School site to an appointed contractor so that the R43 million work to build the school can commence.

For around 50 years generations of pupils attending at the school have been learning in temporary classroom structures which, over the years, have increasingly become degraded and structurally compromised. An initial contractor was appointed to build a formal brick and mortar structure.

However, over the years the project became a site for disruptions from extortionists, aggrieved community members and the project was affected by issues of non-payment which led to the contractor and sub-contractors unable to complete the project. As a result, the project has been standing incomplete and abandoned for a period of 2 years.

On the 20th of January, last year, a group of disgruntled sub-contractors staged a protest demonstration outside KZN Public Works and Infrastructure's head office in Pietermaritzburg driven by the knock-on effects related to the project and others similar to it, prompting MEC Meyer to urgently meet with the group the following day.

KZN Public Works and Infrastructure has successfully appointed a new contractor who will continue with the remainder of the project and a planned site handover will take place at the school premises, marking the soon-to-follow resumption of the project.

Colleagues of the media are invited to attend and there will be a tour of the dilapidated temporary structures and abandoned site, as well as an opportunity for interviews.

Details of the event as follows:

Date: 27 July 24, 2026

Time: 8am

Venue: Woodlands Primary School, Pietermaritzburg (111 Syringa Road, Woodlands, Pietermaritzburg, 3235)

END.

For media enquiries:

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