



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

LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND BUSINESS FORUMS PLEDGE SUPPORT TO MEC MEYER IN HANDOVER OF CONTROVERSIAL WOODLANDS SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SITE PREVIOUSLY HIT BY EXTORTIONISTS

Local contractors, community members and business forums have pledged ongoing support which would ensure the completion of the Woodlands primary school site.

This is the site where the same parties converged at the height of conflict, resulting in the disruption of the building of a new school two years ago. Payment disputes, irregularities, extortionists and community grievances stalled the building of the R33 million school.

For over 50 years doctors, engineers, lawyers and other success stories were forged within the temporary structures of this school.

However, over several decades these success stories came under threat as the temporary classes dilapidated resulting in structural compromise detailed by leaking roofs, broken windows and holes in classroom walls. The asbestos material used on the roofs also posed a serious health risk to both teachers and pupils.

During his address MEC Meyer said Woodlands Primary will stand as a testament to KZN Public Works and Infrastructure's commitment to turning around.

"The 2026/27 budget which I delivered last week was a pledge of a NEW KZN Public Works and Infrastructure that all Education projects will be prioritised to be concluded within time and budget. We remain encouraged also by the newly found commitment by client departments to pay us on time so that we can pay contractors so work can resume"

For the school principal and local Councillor, the resumption of the project resumption means learning can continue in a safe and dignified environment.

The chairman of the local business forum also pledged their support for the undertaking and expressed a newly found sense of commitment from various stakeholders which benefits local communities.

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For media enquiries:

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