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**

# KZN PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE MEC MEYER COMMITS TO ADDRESSING 75% ARTISAN VACANCY GAP IN DEPARTMENT

KZN Public Works and Infrastructure MEC Martin Meyer has committed to have his department assess its budget commitment in order to address the high shortage of vacancies of artisans in the department. The announcement was made by MEC Meyer during the launch of the Water Leaks Programme at Stanger Secondary School in KwaDukuza.

The 75% artisan vacancy rate was forcing KZN Public Works and Infrastructure to look outside for skills needed to maintain provincial government properties, including Stanger Secondary School which is one of several in the province which suffers severe leakages as well non-functional ablution facilities due to water infrastructure related issues.

In KZN schools collectively pay over R200 million in rates and water leaks further put pressure on an already thin operating budget. This has prompted MEC Meyer to declare that money should not be taken away from schools but rather put into them so that an adequate learning condition can be realized.

The Water Leaks Programme also tackles another issue of placement for those who have graduated from TVET colleges as they will be absorbed into the programme and given practical experience under the guidance of KZN Public Works and Infrastructure's qualified and experienced artisans, while partnering entity Enterprise Ilembe will leverage the support of local businesses. By taking this approach, manpower and resources availability is easily made achieved to see the programme rolled out to schools across the province.

The Water Leaks Programme is part of KZN Public Works and Infrastructure's streamlining of provincial government property maintenance as marked by the landmark recently launched Property Finder Portal on www.kznworks.gov.za which will allow anyone to go and report unmaintained properties so that KZN Public Works and Infrastructure can receive formal notification to repair from the occupying department.

"This is the first school. I look forward to this programme being rolled out across many more schools in KZN because while we are a custodian of government property, however we cannot do it all by ourselves", said MEC Meyer.

"The truth is by partnering with those who share the same vision of building KZN better we can achieve so much more, just as today's programme also marks a long-term beneficial partnership with entities like Enterprise Ilembe which will, among other things, result in economic hubs in areas with great potential such as Ilembe", MEC Meyer concluded.

**END.**

**For media enquiries:**

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