

MEDIA STATEMENT

18 JULY 2025

EDTEA DISTANCES ITSELF FROM BOGUS INSPECTIONS IN KWADUKUZA

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) has noted with grave concern reports of illegal business inspections carried out in the KwaDukuza Local Municipality and other parts of the province by individuals fraudulently claiming to represent the Department.

These unauthorised inspections were allegedly conducted under the guise of promoting compliance and enforcement for businesses with the perpetrators using the Department's name and falsely citing endorsement from senior officials. This group is also accused of soliciting money from vulnerable spaza shop operators, most of whom are foreign nationals.

Investigations have revealed that a private company, trading under the name My Spaza Asiphephe, is behind these operations. This company had previously approached the Department seeking formal collaboration to undertake inspections — a request which was formally declined. The Department does not and will not outsource regulatory or enforcement responsibilities to any private entities.

MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, strongly condemned the actions, stating:

“We view these actions as criminal and deeply unethical. These individuals have impersonated government officials, committed acts of extortion, and undermined the integrity of our Department and the legitimate enforcement work we do through the Integrated Compliance and Regulatory Forum (ICOREF). We are working closely with SAPS to ensure that those responsible are held accountable.”

The Department confirms the following:

- All business inspections are conducted by authorised municipal officials and EDTEA staff, in line with the Businesses Act No. 71 of 1991.
- No third-party individuals or private companies are permitted to carry out enforcement inspections on behalf of the Department.
- The Department's Regulation Services Unit is the only legitimate channel to coordinate inspections or compliance campaigns across municipalities.
- Any individual or entity found impersonating government or conducting illegal inspections will be investigated and prosecuted.

EDTEA urges all businesses, especially in the informal sector, to remain vigilant and report any suspicious inspection activities to the Department's toll-free number at 0800 701 701 or via email at Fraud.Corruption@kznedtea.gov.za.

The Department remains committed to creating a fair, transparent, and safe trading environment for all — and to rooting out corruption in all its forms.

Ends.

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs