

MEDIA STATEMENT

30 October 2024

KZN MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, REV. MUSA ZONDI, TAKES GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE OF UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT DURING THE CABINET OPERATION SUKUMA SAKHE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF KWAZULU-NATAL PREMIER, HONOURABLE THAMI NTULI

As part of the KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thami Ntuli's, ongoing commitment to bring government closer to communities, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs, Rev. Musa Zondi, visited Ward 1 in Mkuze, Jozini Municipality. This outreach forms part of the Premier's mission to address local concerns and facilitate economic development directly with the residents.

The day commenced with a detailed briefing led by Ward Councillor, Cllr. Nathi Myeni, who provided MEC Zondi and his team with an overview of the ward's dynamics, community needs, and ongoing projects. The MEC expressed his commitment to understanding these issues firsthand and reinforcing government's support for sustainable development in rural communities.

Projects and Sites Visited

1. uMtapo woMama Agricultural Cooperative The MEC's first stop was the uMtapo woMama Agricultural Cooperative, an inspiring initiative owned and operated by local women. This cooperative empowers women by enabling them to cultivate crops and generate an income for their families. The MEC commended the cooperative for its role in fostering economic self-reliance and emphasised the department's ongoing efforts to support agrarian businesses through access to resources, training, and funding opportunities.

2. Banghoek Lodge

The team also visited Banghoek Lodge, which, although it once held promise as a community asset, has sadly been abandoned. The MEC acknowledged the importance of revitalizing such facilities to boost tourism and provide economic benefits to the local area. Plans to assess the lodge's potential for redevelopment will be considered as part of the broader economic strategy to enhance rural tourism and provide hospitality services.

3. Qedindlala Agricultural Cooperative

Another agricultural cooperative, Qedindlala, demonstrated the importance of agricultural activities in the community's livelihood. This cooperative focuses on diverse crop production, addressing food security concerns and providing employment. The MEC encouraged further support for such initiatives, underscoring agriculture's vital role in both local and regional economic growth.

4. Community Engagement at Bhambanana

The day concluded with a community engagement session at Bhambanana, where Honourable Premier Ntuli addressed local residents.

Community members were given an open platform to express their grievances, raise concerns, and pose questions directly to their leaders.

Issues raised included infrastructure challenges, access to services, and economic opportunities. The leadership responded with clear commitments and actionable feedback, reinforcing the provincial government's dedication to addressing community needs.

MEC Zondi emphasised that these engagements are instrumental in ensuring that government policies and programs remain relevant to local challenges. He said the department would continue to work closely with the community, identifying opportunities for economic empowerment and social development in line with the province's vision of inclusive growth.

ISSUED BY THE KZN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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