



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Date: 14 January 2025

### **A GLIMPSE OF HOPE FOR MKUZE FOLLOWING THE RECENT FLOODS**

Ensuing from the community meeting last week aimed at finding a lasting solution to the flooded bridge over Sekane River in Mkuze, all stakeholders met to map out a way forward.

The team comprising uMkhanyakude District's transport officials, Jozini Ward 20 Councillor Sthembiso Dlamini, commercial farmers and subsistence farmers under the banner of the South Africa Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) joined forces with the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Thembeni kaMadlopha Mthethwa, also in her capacity as the MEC Champion for uMkhanyakude District.

As a temporary measure, with commitments by the SAFDA and farmers, rock and quarry will be spread across all gravel roads, including P2 of 8 and other access roads to Mkuze Wamanzi.

Last week's floods swept away gravel roads, resulting in people not travelling across the Sekane River. A long-term solution for the Department of Transport to erect a bridge over the Sekane River. Officials say plans are afoot to draw designs for proper roads and a bridge.

All stakeholders have agreed to pull all their resources together, which will result in the area being accessible. "We would like to welcome the interventions through commitments by the Department of Transport and farmers. Our worry was seeing all these roads being inaccessible, which would have prevented school children from going to school as well as local from accessing critical services such as healthcare and other needs," concludes MEC kaMadlopha-Mthethwa.