



## **KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

DATE: 08 January 2025

#### **HEAVY RAINS HAVE LEFT A TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION IN UMKHANYAKUDE.**

The recent heavy rains in uMkhanyakude District have left a trail of destruction, more particularly in the areas of Jozini. The area of Ndumo, Mkuze, Ngwavuma, and oBonjeni were hard hit by the storm. One female farmer was rescued by locals in conjunction with Jozini and uMhlathuze Local Municipality's emergency services when she found herself on an island of a river circled by the raging iNgovuma River.

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in her capacity of Operation Sukuma Sakhe and MEC Champion for uMkhanyakude District Municipality, Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, sprung to the communities affected by the floods and assured them of assistance.

KaMadlopha-Mthethwa was accompanied by police and other departments, including local transport officials. Addressing the community of Mkhuze gathered near the bridge of Sekane River, she said the government has plans for the area to have proper roads as a long-term. However, she said that as a temporary measure, plans are afoot to spread rock and quarry onto the affected gravel roads to ease some of the challenges posed by the floods, which rendered the place inaccessible. Other affected areas include Tshaneni, Mhlekezi, and uMkhuze Wamanzi, whose Sekane River was swollen, resulting in the locals being unable to access healthcare services from the nearby Bethesda Hospital.

"While we are looking at a long-term solution, our temporary measure is to spread rock and quarry onto affected gravel roads, and we have requested our departmental officials to assess our crops because we have had reports that they are damaged. We are going to clear logs and shrubs that are preventing people from doing their daily work.

During the Operation Sukuma Sakhe just recently held in the uMkhanyakude District, the Department of Transport committed itself to doing the maintenance of the road infrastructure. We are going to have a stakeholders' meeting next Tuesday so that we will come up with solutions for this area that's always flooded when there are rains of this magnitude which then prevent people from accessing critical services such as schools and healthcare facilities," concludes MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

For media enquiries, please contact Vusi Khumalo on 083 243 2881 or Vusi Zuma on 079 259 6327.