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**KZN AGRICULTURE MEC DEMANDS TIMELY COMPLETION
OF BHAMBANANA ABATTOIR**

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's MEC, Ms Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, conducted a visit to the Bhambanana Red Meat Abattoir in Jozini as part of efforts to promote transparency and accountability by ensuring the Department's infrastructure and facilities are functional. The facility was constructed in 2012 to stimulate regional economic development and job creation, as well as to mitigate the devastating impact of the 2011 Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreak. The MEC's visit coincided with the official handover of the abattoir site to ECA Consulting (PTY) Ltd for completing work valued at R16,450 million.

This follows the company's appointment as the new service provider. The new service provider will do the remaining repairs and renovations to ensure full compliance with Veterinary Public Health (VPH) requirements, addressing issues such as the slaughtering line height, port size and absence of headwrecks and hoof stations. The scope of work for the new service provider includes necessary repairs and modifications to the overnight cold room, chillers, offal rooms, carcass dispatch areas, lairages for cattle and sheep and livestock off-loading facilities.

The uMkhanyakude District faces significant socio-economic challenges, including high unemployment and widespread poverty, with agriculture, more particularly livestock farming being the dominant economic activities.

Reacting to the handover, Ms kaMadlopha-Mthethwa expressed optimism about the facility's potential to mitigate the impact of Foot-and-Mouth Disease on local farmers, saying, "We want this project to be up and running and used optimally. I am also cautioning against corruption by unscrupulous government officials or traditional leaders who demand kickbacks from service providers. This project is the first step in addressing Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the region."

Abattoirs serve as a critical link between livestock farmers and markets. This one has a daily capacity to slaughter up to 60 cattle. Renovations are expected to be completed by July 2027.

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**ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**













