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R31.7 Million DARD OFFICES OPEN IN NKANDLA, CREATING JOBS AND EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

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By Sphumelele Msomi

NKANDLA, KwaZulu-Natal – The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has officially opened its new R31.7 million offices in Nkandla, marking a significant investment in public infrastructure, job creation and improved agricultural support services.

The construction project created employment opportunities for 45 local residents, with women and young people receiving priority.

Workers from Ward 5 were employed in various trades, including bricklaying, plumbing, electrical installation and concrete work, providing both income and valuable skills development.

Speaking during the official handover, Agriculture MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha Mthethwa described the opening as a milestone for the farming community.



“It is a big day for us. We are opening opportunities for Nkandla farmers who need assistance from the department.



No matter how organised you are with fertile land and green plants, if you do not have offices, you are as good as not organised. These offices will bring dignity to those who need help and inspire confidence through a professional environment,” he said. Madlopha said the new facility will improve access to government agricultural services for communities in Mahlaizeni, Isbovu, eVuleka, Vumantlamvu and Khombe.

He added that the offices will strengthen service delivery, provide a central point for farmers seeking technical support and agricultural programmes, and contribute to the long-term development of the agricultural sector in Nkandla and surrounding rural communities.