

MEC MCHUNU MEETS AND CONSOLES FAMILIES OF FLOOD VICTIMS AS HE OPENS NEW BRIDGE AND ROADS IN UMZIMKHULU

UMZIMKHULU - KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, today met and consoled families of two school learners who drowned at the flooding Gungununu river in uMzikhulu.

MEC Mchunu met the family of Nandipha Jaka (6) and Iviwe Dlamini (6) who both died in 2011 on their way from St Patrick's school. Both girls were doing grade-1.

This was during the visit by MEC Mchunu to the area of uMzimkhulu to officiate the sod turning of Gungununu river bridge.

The community of uMzikhulu welcomed this R26 million bridge construction project, saying it will end the tragedy of learners and other citizens who drown in the river while crossing to get to their destinations.

Sthobile Duma, Nandipha's mother, expressed hope that the construction of this bridge will end drowning during flooding days.

"This answers our long-held prayers and we hope it will end the high levels of drowning in the area. We welcome this service delivery by the Department of Transport in KwaZulu-Natal," said Duma.

MEC Mchunu also opened the first phases of main roads P-601 (46.5 kilometres) and P-749 (44 kilometres) which are being upgraded from gravel to tar.

Mchunu also announced that the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has for the next three years budgeted more than R500 million towards infrastructure development, mainly roads and bridge construction, in the area.

"The fact that people continue to drown in this area justifies the correctness of our decision to prioritise this community. The construction of Gungununu bridge will change the lives of the people, including school learners, and connect the people of uMzimkhulu. We have made strides in the construction of new roads in uMzimkhulu with an investment of more than R500 million budgeted over the next three years," said Mchunu.

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