

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

13 March 2026

KZN EDTEA MEC Rev. Musa Zondi to Launch Mpofana Innovation & Digital Hub in Mooi River

Members of the media are invited to attend the official launch of the Mpofana Innovation & Digital Hub, an important initiative aimed at expanding digital access, innovation, and skills development in rural communities of KwaZulu-Natal.

The launch, which carries the theme “Empowering Mpofana through Digital Access and Innovation,” will be led by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), Reverend Musa Zondi, who will be officially received by the Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI) CEO, Dr Thandeka Ellenson.

The ceremony will include the cutting of the ribbon and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to formally mark the opening of the Mpofana Digital Centre.

The event will take place as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 17 March 2026

Time: 09h00 – 12h00

Venue: Bruntville Hall, 20th Avenue, Mooi River, KwaZulu-Natal

MKRI is mandated to conduct world-class research that supports the growth and development of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial economy. This includes generating economic data, providing statistical services, and coordinating innovation-driven initiatives across the province.

Recognising that innovation and information communication technology (ICT) are key drivers in addressing socioeconomic challenges, the KZN Provincial Government has identified these sectors as strategic priorities for economic development. In response, MKRI has established Digital Centres in rural and township communities to bridge the digital divide and empower citizens through access to modern technology and innovation platforms.

The Mpofana Innovation & Digital Hub will function as a centre for promoting digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, and skills development. Through this initiative, communities will gain access to digital infrastructure, training programmes, innovation support, and resources designed to empower youth, entrepreneurs, and local businesses.

The centre forms part of MKRI’s broader strategy to promote technological advancement, stimulate local economic growth, and position KwaZulu-Natal as a competitive participant in the global digital economy. By expanding access to digital tools and innovation support systems, the initiative aims to unlock opportunities for employment, enterprise development, and sustainable economic transformation in underserved communities.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend and cover this milestone initiative that advances digital inclusion, innovation, and socio-economic development in Mpofana Local Municipality.

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For media inquiries or to RSVP, please contact:
Ms. Sinenhlanhla Mthembu
KZN EDTEA Media Liaison Officer and Spokesperson
083 461 0113
sinenhlanhla.mthembu@kznedtea.gov.za

Mr. Kamvalethu Xhelithole
MKRI Digital Communications Specialist
079 857 8084
comms.specialist@moseskotane.com

ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS