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# MEC launches R10m unemployment project in rural KZN



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Rev Thulasizwe Buthelezi, at the official launch of the Local Government Support Flagship Programme in Nongoma.

**The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), Rev Thulasizwe Buthelezi, officially launched the Local Government Support Flagship Programme in Nongoma and KwaHlabisa under the expanded public works programme (EPWP).**

At the event, Buthelezi presided over the signing of contracts for 100 young people from the two municipalities, marking the start of their 24-month employment period. The youth will be tasked with supporting waste collection and environmental preservation efforts in their respective

communities.

This flagship initiative is designed to provide support to smaller municipalities that often struggle to fulfil basic service delivery mandates, particularly waste management due to financial constraints.

Cogta has allocated a R10-million budget for the programme, which aims to employ 3 000 EPWP participants across six selected municipalities. Big Five Hlabisa and Nongoma are the first to benefit. Buthelezi also handed over tools of trade and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the newly recruited participants, started work on 1 July.