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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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## **KZN MOBILISES TO DEAL WITH CYCLONE**

KZN Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize has appeal to all residents to cooperate with structures set up to deal with the aftermath of the incoming cyclone, expected to hit the Province's north coast later this (SATURDAY) afternoon.

"Cooperative Governance MEC Nomsa Dube will coordinate an MECs Disaster Management Committee of Cabinet. We have been warned to put all our structures and communities on full alert in preparation for the cyclone," said Dr Mkhize.

He said mayors and municipal managers from Umkhanyakude, Zululand, uThungulu, Ilembe, eThekwini, uMgungundlovu and Mzinyathi have been told to brace themselves for impact and spill over effects of the storm.

"It is better to be over prepared than be caught unprepared. Rescue and evacuation, safety and fire units have been put on standby."

Dr Mkhize said members of the Cabinet have set up a Joint Operations Centre with Disaster Management, SAPS, SANDF, EMRS, Fire Brigades and hospitals being activated.

"We have also activated service organization, religious groups and charity organization. Communities at risk must identified and if needed, be evacuated. A strong surveillance will be ensured to warn us in time, and the Provincial Disaster Team shall act without delay," said Dr Mkhize.

The last storm of this magnitude hit the Province was 15 years ago, and it resulted in the deaths of 200 lives.

MEC Dube warned residents to remain calm, remain indoors and avoid crossing rivers and streams.

## **Issued by the Office of the Premier**

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