



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DATE: 26 AUGUST 2022

MEC HLOMUKA OPENS M4 BOYS TOWN SECTION TO TRAFFIC AFTER MONTHS OF CLOSURE DUE TO FLOODS

The community of North Coast in Durban and motorists are feeling some relief after MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Siphso Hlomuka, officially re-opened M4 (Boys Town section) linking Durban – La Mercy and King Shaka.

The road was officially opened today (Friday, 26 August 2022) at 09h00 after successful completion of repairs which was a joint work between the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, eThekweni metro, South African Defence Force (SANDF) and SANRAL.

The re-opening of this road means it will now be easy to connect between Tongaat, La Mercy, uMhlanga, and Durban Central District.

The road also provides a strategic link to the King Shaka Airport and the Dube Trade Port.

During the May 2022 floods, the road suffered major washaway, forcing the total closure on both bounds. Communities have had to use long delaying alternatives to link up to important areas.

M4 was repaired at a cost of R3 million, which was mainly for the purchasing of material. The project was done using internal teams with the employment of 145 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants.

The one major remaining closure on the M4 is the Tongaat River bridge, near Ballito, which is being attended to by Sanral. Plans are afoot to put temporary measures in place, whilst the permanent structure is being constructed.

The successful re-opening of this road follows the re-opening of R102 near J.G Crookes hospital in Scottburgh, which is now open after the repairs. These are part of strategic projects which were prioritized after the April 2022 and May 2022 floods.

MEC Hlomuka, who was accompanied by the Speaker of eThekweni Metro, Cllr Thabani Nyawose, SANRAL representatives, SANDF commanders, applauded the

speed at which the M4 repairs were done, saying this demonstrates that government is indeed at work.

“During the floods we came here, and the damage was quite huge. We did not anticipate it to be done within such a short space of time. We commend the good work by all parties involved and we want to see a similar pace as well in other projects. What is good about this project is that it was done using internal government capacity and the EPWP. We managed to create work opportunities to young people, and this will help them with necessary skills. Job creation is central in our service delivery programmes. With the re-opening of this road, it will now be easy to connect between Durban – La Mercy and the Boys Town. Motorist will benefit a lot in this project,” said MEC Hlomuka.

Hlomuka also assured the people of KwaZulu-Natal that the Department working with SANRAL is attending to all outstanding projects which were affected by floods.

In next few weeks he will be handing over contractors to start work on various projects, including repair of blacktop, betterment and re-graveling and fixing bridges.

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