



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Media Advisory

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KZN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE DECISION BY SANRAL TO FURTHER SUSPEND PAYMENT OF TOLLS ON THE N2 IN TONGAAT AND KWADUKUZA

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government welcomes the decision by the South African National Road Agency SoE (SANRAL) to delay the upliftment of a waiver in the payment of tollgates on the N2 in Tongaat and KwaDukuza.

The decision to halt the resumption of payment by SANRAL follows a high-level meeting between a government delegation and SANRAL board and the executive management yesterday (31 January 2022) evening in Durban.

The meeting resolved to suspend the upliftment of a waiver. This is to allow for more consultations with various stakeholders and communities.

The government delegation was led by the MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (EDTEA) and also Leader of Government Business, Mr Siboniso Duma, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, Mayors and Councillors from iLembe, KwaDukuza, Mandeni and eThekweni, who were directly affected by the April 2022 floods.

The delegation from SANRAL consisted of the Chairperson of the board Mr Themba Mhambi and the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Mr Reginald Demane and other executives.

Last year April, a decision was taken to suspend the payment of tolls on the N2 after M4 and R102 had experienced failures due to floods.

Already SANRAL has lost about R300 million and is now having a shortfall in their maintenance funding.

As part of the progress, most sections of the M4 have been repaired with the exception of Tongaat river bridge and R102.

Mhambi said there is a need to find a solution to the problem and to resume toll payments.

"We understand the plight of the people, but we need to find a solution. SANRAL and government is losing a lot of money which should be going to the maintenance. We believe that working together with the provincial government we will find solutions. We have decided not to uplift the waiver but instead allow for more consultations and explore all workable solutions that will alleviate pressure from the residences" said Mhambi.



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Responding on behalf of the government, MEC Duma said the flexibility by SANRAL to allow for more consultations with stakeholders and motorists is a progressive decision and must be applauded.

“We believe that working together with all stakeholders and communities we will find a solution. We agree that at some stage motorists need to resume paying but that must be balanced with fixing the alternatives. We believe that with the consultations we will arrive a constructive and balanced outcome,” said Duma.

SANRAL also presented updates on repairs of other flood damaged infrastructure and progress in capital projects in the province.

SANRAL also reported that they have finalized the appointment of contractors to work on the repair of N2 uMgababa and N2 in uMhlali.

There are number of other strategic investment that SANRAL is making and number of strategic projects which is being implemented jointly with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.

Ends./