



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Media Advisory

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MAJOR BOOST TO TOURISM AND LOCAL BUSINESSES IN BALLITO AS MEC SIPHO HLOMUKA ANNOUNCES THE PARTIAL RE-OPENING THE M4 TONGAAT RIVER BRIDGE

The area of Ballito is set to get a Major economic and tourism boost during the festive season and beyond as the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka, has announced the re-opening of the Tongaat river bridge in Zimbali, Ballito.

This bridge is located on the M4 linking the areas of KwaDukuza and eThekweni.

The repairs of this bridge have been completed through the partnership between the Department of Transport and the South African National Roads Agency SoC (Sanral).

The bridge will be re-opened tomorrow (Thursday, 14 December 2023) at 10h00.

The bridge was damaged by the April 2022 floods and government launched the contractor to conduct repairs in June 2023.

The partial re-opening of this bridge is essential as it provides an alternative link to the N2 and the King Shaka International airport.

With more than a year of closure, local residence, businesses, and tourist were forced to use the N2 toll road.

There are some parts in Westbrook which are still under repairs and the surfacing of the bridge will still be undertaken.

Government had to intervene and put a waiver on a year on the Tongaat toll gate.

The re-opening of this road will ensure that all aspects of life return to normalcy.

The re—opening also takes place when most industries are closing for the Festive Season holidays, and it will improve tourism and restore economic growth around KwaDukuza and eThekweni.

Commenting after receiving a briefing on the state of readiness, MEC Hlomuka said, the partial re-opening of this bridge will be a major relief to local residence, businesses, and visitors.

"When we launched the reconstruction of this bridge, we committed to open it before Christmas. Indeed, we are opening it tomorrow before the industries are closing and before the long weekend. The re-opening of this bridge will reduce the traffic on the N2 which is experiencing huge congestions due to construction work currently taking place. We are also attending to the few remaining flood damaged projects in the province. We wish to appreciate the working partnership with various sectors and the people of Westbrook in eThekweni and Ballito under iLembe. This bridge is a link between these two important municipalities," said Hlomuka.



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The partial repairs also opened opportunities to emerging local businesses and the project created more than 60 jobs.

Details for the re-opening:

DATE : 14 DECEMBER 2023
TIME : 10h00
VENUE : M4 TONGAAT RIVER BRIDGE (ZIMBALI – BALLITO)

Ends/