



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Public and media statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma after a successful meeting with the King

06 September 2024

King's Palace, uPhongolo: With a high sense of humility and respect, we wish to express our deepest appreciation to His Majesty for welcoming us in the palace yesterday.

We were inspired by his guidance, wise words, and clear vision for the overall improvement of the public transport system.

His deep interest in matters of nation building and the unity of the people for prosperity injected energy in us.

We agree with His Majesty that the stimulation of rural economies and the success of rural economic development will be largely determined by the accelerated construction of roads in rural areas.

He stated that excellent road infrastructure that is constructed, maintained, and rehabilitated will connect rural communities to socio-economic centres.

Clearly, we have a responsibility to do things differently because poor road conditions in rural areas are the main reasons communities remain isolated and trapped under the yoke of underdevelopment and poverty.

Importantly, we have internalized the King's wise words that, as we move forward, the focus must be on the following:

- Co-ordinated efforts by law enforcement agencies to fight extortionists and those who are stopping construction projects, including Amadelangokubona;
- Fighting corruption and fraud associated with the awarding of tenders for the construction of roads;
- And that the Department must ensure that tenders should not be a source of conflict and division of united and peaceful communities;
- Inspection of road infrastructure ahead of Reed Dance to ensure the safety of maidens and members of the public;
- Urgent improvement of roads in Zululand District Municipality and Inhlalankosi in order to attract investors, tourists and improve the quality of life of citizens;
- Working with the Ingonyama Trust and Amakhosi to ensure that communities benefit from mining operations for the extraction of a range of mineral products, including lime, slate, titanium, granite, and sand and stone quarries for construction materials;
- Promoting efficient and transparent resource allocation towards construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of roads in deep rural areas;



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- Fostering a sense of community ownership of road construction projects by ensuring transparency and ensuring open participation by communities.

Following our successful meeting with His Majesty, I am personally relieved that the matter of KwaCeza, which created tension and divided society, has now been finally relegated to the dustbin of history.

We offer to double our efforts to Inspire Hope for a Better Future.

We need to continuously remind ourselves that this freedom belongs to the ordinary people of this province.

It is them who must taste the fruits of freedom through accelerated service delivery, not sideshows that are creating tension and dividing society.

Ends.

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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