

Bullet Train between Durban and Gauteng | Rail networks to be revitalized

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma as he welcomes announcements by Premier Thami Ntuli in his State of the Province

28 February 2025

Woodburn Stadium, Pietermaritzburg: We welcome the historic announcement by the Premier Thami Ntuli in the State-of-the-Province Address today. In particular, in relation to the Department of Transport, we welcome his focus on the following:

- Revitalization of Freight Sector to ensure that the large freight cargo volume that is exported and imported through the ports of Durban and Richards is moved through the rail network.
- Acceleration of the establishment of a Bullet Train between Durban and Gauteng - a project supported by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

In line with the Premier's announcement on rail network, we will work with the national government to ensure that we are part of the revitalization and creation of improved efficiency in the rail network.

We will be aligning ourselves with the work being undertaken following an announcement made by national government to divide Transnet Freight Rail into a Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM) and a Transnet Freight Rail Operating Company (TFROC).

In particular, a dedicated team from the provincial Department of Transport will work with National Department of Transport and other key stakeholders such as TRIM and TFROC as we undertake this work.

As guided by the national government, TRIM will manage, operate and maintain the rail infrastructure while opening the market to third parties together with TFROC.

Undoubtedly, this arrangement will ensure the generation of revenue to fund rehabilitation of the rail network.

As KZN we offer to make a meaningful contribution towards the ushering of a new area.

We have stated in the past that our economy is driven largely through the transport and logistics sectors based on the two major ports housed in the province, namely Port of Richards Bay and the Port of Durban.

Both ports are economically strategic not only to the Province of KZN, but also to the national economy of South Africa since they are linked to the economic heartland of South Africa, Gauteng, via our road infrastructure.

The Port of Durban is also a transit point for cross-border container traffic for our neighbouring countries—a gateway to Southern Africa.

The Ports of Richards Bay and Durban are important contributors to international trade and a significant enabler for South Africa's and the Province's economic development.

Lastly, we will have a Freight Indaba as part of ongoing interaction with key stakeholders in the industry. The Bullet Train between Durban and Gauteng will help bridge the gap between KZN and that province. And will undoubtedly be a game changer in terms of improved public transport system.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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