

**Driver's License Testing Centre in Impendle: Creating a new culture aimed at curbing road accidents, and we are ensuring access to socio-economic opportunities.**

Media invite and Statement by MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

10 February 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: Tomorrow, we will officially open the first ever Driving License and Testing Centre (DLTC) in Impendle Local Municipality.

As the Department, we donated three vehicles to establish a Traffic Department in the municipality.

This facility will serve more than 40 000 local residents, especially young people who are in the majority.

Apart from obtaining a legal authority to drive, having a driver's license offers many benefits, such as access to employment and a variety of other socio-economic development opportunities.

Critically, this centre must also be viewed within the context of our sustained efforts aimed at strengthening our road safety and awareness campaigns.

We are creating a new culture and targeting young people who are yet to acquire drivers' licenses.

We want to teach them good driving habits before they acquire bad driving habits such as drinking and driving and not wearing seatbelts.

We say to communities, you must not get a driver's license in a hurry just because it is a requirement for the job. Importantly, through these centres and KZN Transport Forums, we want to teach young people about road safety.

By the time our learners are 17 years of age they must receive their learner's license; by the time they are 18 years of age, they must receive their driver's license.

We are determined to ensure that our road networks throughout the corners have qualified drivers.

A total of R8,7 billion is being spent on transport infrastructure. Over R3,7 billion is going into constructing new infrastructural projects (roads and bridges), while over R4 billion been set aside to maintain our road network.

In addition, over R58 million is going into infrastructure planning and design, with over R920 million being allocated to support programmes within transport infrastructure.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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