

Closure and Jacking of Umzimkhulu River Bridge from 5am on 19 August to 5pm on Saturday, 22 August: Duma says the jacking will enable engineers to continue with structural repairs that will reinstate the bridge's durability to 25 years and more.

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma.

18 August 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: As announced a week ago, during our unannounced visit and inspection of the repairs of Umzimkhulu River Bridge, we are accelerating our work to ensure the bridge re-opening in September 2026.

The acceleration measures include extending working hours incorporating weekend work.

For instance, the weekend before the snowfall, the team worked extra hours in anticipation of any delays caused by a severe weather pattern.

At this stage, we wish to announce the closure and jacking of the bridge from 5am on 19 August to 5pm on Saturday, 22 August.

The jacking will enable engineers to continue with structural repairs that will reinstate the bridge's durability to 25 years and more.

We are encouraged by co-operation from key stakeholders such as the Mayor of Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, Cllr Zodwa Mzindle, the whole council, Deputy Chair of the Ugu District Community Policing Forum, Selvan Chetty, members of the forum, SA National Taxi Council, ratepayers associations, local businesses, residents and many other stakeholders of which there are too many to mention.

Last year on 17 March 2025, we announced the official closure of the bridge.

This marked the beginning of the emergency repairs and rehabilitation of the Umzimkhulu River Bridge, which was built in 1958.

The bridge was built using the old caisson construction system.

Critically, every three years (instead of five years), our team of engineers continuously uses specialized bridge management software and visual technical evaluations to monitor infrastructure integrity in more than 3 822 bridges and more than 2,000 culverts.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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