

## **Re-opening of the Umzimkhulu River Bridge at 06h00 on 24 August 2026: Duma believes that the work acceleration plan will eventually end the isolation of residents, business community and visitors**

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

23 August 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We wish to announce that engineers have completed the jacking of Umzimkhulu River Bridge. The bridge has now will be reopened at 06h00 tomorrow morning, 24 August 2026.

Once again we thank the people of Ugu District and Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality in particular for walking with us on this journey.

As we stated in the past, working together, we will overcome all challenges and eventually usher in a new era of prosperity.

The contractor and workers in particular have doubled their efforts as guided by the work acceleration plan.

I assigned the Head of the Department, Zibusiso Dlamini, to ensure adherence to the following decisive measures:

1. Performance-Driven Contractor Management – Extra working hours where necessary. For instance, before the snowfall, workers worked extra hours in anticipation of disruption caused by snowfall and prolonged rainfall.
2. Performance-Reviews - Further intensifying contract performance reviews, with corrective measures and support interventions where necessary to improve productivity.
3. On-Site Oversight Intensification – monitoring day-to-day progress and resolving technical challenges in real time.
4. Stakeholder and Community Engagement—Increasing transparency by providing regular progress updates to communities, local leadership, and industry stakeholders to ensure shared ownership of the project's success.
5. Accelerated Payment Resolution – Intensifying the implementation of the digital invoice-payment and tracking system. This is aimed at ensuring that contractors receive funds without undue delays.

We have set the target of September 2026, for the completion of this important work.

Once completed, the repaired bridge will significantly improve travel times, road safety, and access to economic opportunities.

Critically, as we count down to October, the Transport Month, we want residents, business communities, and visitors to enjoy free movement after months of inconvenience and isolation as a result of ongoing repairs and rehabilitation.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

Ndabezinhle Sibiya | 082 375 4742 | Spokesperson | MEC for Transport and Human Settlements