



transport

Department:
Transport
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



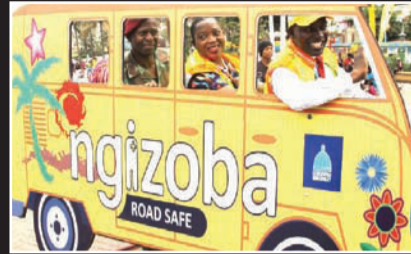
community safety & liaison

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Community Safety and Liaison
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



Traditional leaders are key players in community safety

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Municipalities will now be eyed for road safety

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Transport infrastructure is the heart of economic growth

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Road to economic transformation



Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mxolisi Kaunda has announced a R9.96 billion budget to drive radical socio-economic transformation and expand roads and transportation infrastructure and services to KwaZulu-Natal citizens equitably. THAMI MKHULISA

The Department will establish a dedicated Youth Directorate to drive youth economic empowerment programmes in the transport sectors in the province.

Sibongiseni Thabethe
Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mxolisi Kaunda has announced a R9.96 billion's budget that is aimed at driving radical socio-economic transformation, while expanding roads and transportation infrastructure and services in KwaZulu-Natal.
He tabled his Transport and Community Safety portfolio departments' budget votes for the 2017/18 financial year in the Provincial Legislature in Pietermaritzburg yesterday.

Kaunda said "radical socio-economic transformation was now the department's strategic policy thrust", and will be implemented across the transport sector.
He said radical socio-economic transformation will permeate across all programmes of the department to expand the gains of freedom and democracy to all citizens equitably and in line with policies of the governing African National Congress.
All socio-economic transformation initiatives will be housed within the new "IGULA" programme.

IGULA stands for "Inclusive Growth, Unity and Economic Liberation of Africans in particular and Blacks in general", explained Kaunda.
He added that that economic transformation will entail effecting procurement reforms to achieve empowerment targets for the youth (35%), women (30%), military veterans (10%) and people with disabilities (5%), in line with the Provincial Executive's decision.
The department will also create a dedicated Youth Directorate to drive youth socio-economic empowerment initiatives.

Furthermore, said Kaunda, the department will ensure that all its contracts integrate the minimum 30% local content target for beneficiating communities where work and services are provided.
"We will also fast-track the development of small and local contractors, social enterprises, and co-operatives so that they can become active participants in the mainstream economy, and help drive job creation, across the transport sector including in public transport," said Kaunda.

"Road Safety and the fight against crime are our collective responsibility."

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The department's five strategic imperatives for next three years:

- Driving a transport sector-wide radical socio-economic transformation;
- Improving administrative governance and skills base to create an effective and responsive department that is accountable and achieves clean audits;
- Intensification of the delivery of roads and transportation infrastructure and services guided by a prioritisation model;
- Involvement of communities and relevant transport sector stakeholders as active participants and partners in implementing departmental programmes; and
- Creating an effective traffic management and a safe road environment to reduce road crashes and fatalities in the province.

The department will also:

- Drive youth empowerment through a dedicated Youth Directorate that will drive initiatives for this critical sector. This includes building a technical skills base of engineers, technologists, transportation professionals and economists, to lead the transformation agenda. As such, the department will increase its investment in bursaries and tighten contracts to ensure that it extracts value for the money invested in training young people at universities.
- Invest R7.2 billion or 73% of its total R9.96 billion budget into expanding and maintaining roads and transportation infrastructure as well as services to citizens, especially in underdeveloped rural and township communities.
- Increase participation of African operators in the Subsidised Public Transport Services sector, where they currently benefit a lowly R158 million.
- Promote peace, stability and growth of the taxi industry, so operators can grow to participate in the entire value chain from vehicle warehousing, distribution, sales and maintenance to manufacturing parts such as tyres, electronic management systems, as well as participating in the petroleum business and other opportunities.
- Facilitate the creation of, and provide support for, community-based social enterprises, co-operatives, and other small businesses to participate in all contracts as suppliers of materials and services and become self-sustainable entities owned by communities.



All society stakeholders to play role in road safety



Members of the Provincial Executive Council Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda (front), Ms. Nomusa Dube-Ncube and Dr. Sibongiseni Dhlomo during a road safety campaign held jointly with eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. ZINGISA HLATHI

We believe that the commitment by leadership from Premier to MECs, mayors and that of all sectors and structures of society will yield positive results.

Sibongiseni Thabethe

The KwaZulu-Natal provincial road safety campaign is set for a major refresh as Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mxolisi Kaunda pushes for a

broader stakeholder involvement across all sectors of society. Speaking during the tabling of the provincial Department of Transport's budget vote yesterday, Kaunda said it was critical that the South African society understood and embraced the fact that "Road Safety is Our Collective Responsibility".

He said the province was still coming to terms with the recent, traumatic spate of road crashes that at the height of the Easter long weekend claimed the lives of 25 people in two separate crashes involving a bus and mini-buses in Kranskop and eMzumbhe.

"The time has now come to build national consciousness on road safety," said Kaunda.

"For us to create a safe road environment, will require intensified multi-disciplinary road traffic law enforcement and education campaigns. But what we need much more, is the collective willpower all stakeholders across sectors from public transport to individual motorists and pedestrians."

The provincial "Operation Valingozi" road safety campaign will be reinvigorated with year-round roadblocks, 24-hour traffic police visibility, and targeted

education and awareness campaigns, he explained.

"National statistics from the last festive season illustrate that African youth are the largest base of victims. They also show that road user behaviour and attitude are at the heart of the challenge. We need to respond to these issues directly, working with local and district municipalities and all sectors," he said.

"As the leadership of the provincial government we are already leading from the front with the premier and MECs also championing road safety across districts," he concluded.

Peace, stability and growth of the taxi industry a priority

Akhona Dlamini

Maintaining a stable and growing taxi industry is critical for a peaceful and thriving KwaZulu-Natal. But also more important is the growth of the taxi operators into the rest of the transport sector value chain according to the Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mxolisi Kaunda, who has made these issues his priority over the next three years.

Kaunda reaffirmed this while delivering his provincial Department of Transport's budget vote in the Legislature in Pietermaritzburg yesterday.

He said the department, working with the taxi industry through the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), had made great strides in obtaining peace and stability in the taxi industry, upon which the majority of citizens rely for daily transport needs.

Except for a few, isolated areas out of a total of 246 taxi associations operating in the province, the taxi industry was "broadly stable and peaceful", he said.

A major breakthrough has been the resolution of the thorny issue of operating licences by the department and the industry.



MEC Mxolisi Kaunda officially opening Provincial Regulatory Entity licensing offices in Port Shepstone last year. ZINGISA HLATHI

We want to see taxi operators grow beyond their current businesses into the entire transport sector value chain, which is critical for stability.

A moratorium on the issuance of new licences has been lifted for legal operators who want to add fleet in the first phase of the agreement, and for new operators subject to economic viability of routes for which licences are applied for in the second phase. The department has successfully

expanded offices of its Provincial Regulatory Entity, the licensing authority for mini-buses, buses, and metre taxis.

"We now have offices in Empanjeni, Ladysmith, Port Shepstone and will soon launch the latest office in KwaMhlabuyalingana. This is in addition to the office in Pietermaritzburg, which serves as a head office as well as a regional offices.

"We are taking services to where people are, and making it easier for them to have access" said Kaunda.

The department will continue to assist local and district municipalities build capacity to administer public transport services within the local sphere of government to improve service delivery.

"This includes ensuring that municipalities have capacity to oversee all public transport matters and take ownership of managing taxi and bus ranks," said Kaunda.

"This also entails competently resolving forming issues before they explode into deadly and costly conflict," Kaunda added.

"Road Safety and the fight against crime are our collective responsibility."

Clean governance takes centre stage as part of turn around

Eradicating fraud and corruption remains one of the priorities for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, said MEC Mxolisi Kaunda, when he tabled the budget vote in the provincial legislature yesterday.

He said the department needed to lift its game to serve citizens with efficiency and ensure that citizens are treated with utmost humility, respect and dignity.

He said that whether they are looking to obtain driver licences, to renew vehicle and driver licences, or they are pursuing opportunities to provide a service, citizens should be treated fairly, ethically and professionally.

“In terms of the cases of suspected fraud and corruption being investigated, we have requested the Provincial Treasury to ensure that they are resolved with speed. This, we believe is critical to upholding fair administrative justice even for those individuals who are being investigated. Furthermore, we will continue to work

with the Provincial Internal Audit Services, Forensic Investigation Unit, and other law enforcement agencies, to root out fraud and corruption in our department,” said Kaunda.

The department will also ensure integration of its programmes with municipalities in the province. These cut across all services offered within the mandate of the department.

In this financial year, at the inter-governmental level, Kaunda said his department will be working through the Department of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) to ensure better coordination and capacity building in terms of:

- Roads and transportation projects prioritisation;
- The establishment of Municipal Regulatory Entities;
- The implementation of the Rank Management System and safe-keeping of state assets in municipal facilities, including yellow fleet.

Kaunda pushes transformation of subsidised public transport sector



Bonginkosi Gumede and his wife Florence Gumede are the owners of the Trans Tugela Bus company, which receives subsidy from the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Department of Transport to transport learners. ZINGISA HLATHI

Mabuyi Mkarry

Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mxolisi Kaunda said part of his priorities in this 2017/18 financial year, and going forward, is to reinforce programmes aimed at developing operators in the transport industry to spread their wings across the sector and economy.

He said this is in line with his vision of working to advance the Radical Socio-Economic Transformation programme, which is aimed at increasing participation of Africans in particular, and Blacks in general.

Bonginkosi Gumede, a bus company owner in Richards Bay, has already experienced this transformation and the role played by the department to ensure that he grows in this industry. Gumede started in the taxi business and is now the owner of the Trans Tugela Bus Service, a company subsidised by government to transport learners under the Scholar Transport Programme, in KwaBiyela, Melmoth.

“I want to commend MEC Kaunda for this transformation programme as it empowers us African people. I will be happy to continue working with the Department of Transport in making black people’s lives better in this province,” said Gumede.

Kaunda said that beyond operating minibus taxis, operators should be involved in areas including vehicle warehousing, distribution, sales and maintenance.

“In their own right, they should become manufacturers of parts such as tyres, electronic management systems, scrapping administration agents, produce diesel, as well as access other opportunities in the value chain.

“Another area requiring transformation is matime, or what we now broadly call the ocean economy. Our province handles most of imports and exports through eThekweni and Richards Bay, which holds massive opportunities for economic empowerment of Africans in our mainstream economy,” he said.

Roads and transportation services are the lifeblood of the economy



Some major road infrastructure investments in KwaZulu-Natal include the Umngeni Interchange in Durban.

What excites us more about these road projects is that they create job opportunities for local people and also assist with skills development and transfer.

Nonhlanhla Ndwandwe

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is continuing to make major investments into the development of roads and transportation infrastructure and services, with a massive R7.2 billion or 73% of its total budget for 2017/18 financial year.

Presenting his budget speech at the provincial Legislature, MEC Mxolisi Kaunda said: “It is critical and profound that R7.2 billion or 73% of the whole budget is allocated to the development of roads and transportation infrastructure and services.”

“Furthermore, we are especially unequivocal in maintaining a fair balance between maintaining existing infrastructure and building new roads and bridges,” explained Kaunda.

The department has allocated R1.2 billion towards rehabilitation of roads; R2.1 billion into the construction (upgrade from gravel to tar) of new roads and bridges, and R3.4 billion towards maintaining existing infrastructure. An additional R500 million is budgeted for support, planning and design of infrastructure projects.

As part of the department’s “Operation Kushunquthuli” programme, rural communities are being connected to schools, clinics and hospitals as well areas of work and towns.

“We will be building 215 kilometres of new gravel and access roads in 2017/18, which will total 615 kilometres by 2019/20. We will also, during the same period, upgrade 285 kilometres of gravel

roads to tar, connecting mostly rural towns and communities into major corridors,” said Kaunda.

The department will also build 13 new pedestrian and seven vehicle bridges in this financial year, totalling to 60 by 2019/20.

“What excites us more about these road projects is that they create job opportunities for local people, help build skills, and facilitate the growth of small contractors and social enterprises,” said Kaunda.

Simultaneously, noted Kaunda, the national Department of Transport’s South African National Roads Agency (SANCOR) Limited (SANRAL) is currently involved in roads projects in the province amounting to R21.6 billion on national routes and interchanges.

These include major upgrades such as the Mount Edgecombe/ Gateway interchange that is nearing completion at an estimated cost of R1.1 billion, which will markedly improve traffic flow.

Assessment effectiveness of law enforcement resources



MEC Mxolisi Kaunda took some time to check the conditions of law enforcement equipment at Umkhondeni Testing Centre before presenting his budget speech at the provincial legislature. NOSIPHO NXASANE

“Road Safety and the fight against crime are our collective responsibility.”

A move to empower service providers' employees

Sthembile Luthuli

The budget for the Department of Community Safety and Liaison has been accepted as the one that builds relationship between safety and radical socio-economic transformation for the citizens of the province.

MEC Mxolisi Kaunda presented the budget of R210 million for the financial year 2017/18, saying that it aimed at assisting to create conditions suitable for economic development. He said that the province of KwaZulu-Natal was experiencing some economic development and population growth, amidst a tough economic climate.

"The department is now planning to empower the workers who are currently providing services through the existing service providers by helping them to form co-operatives that it will contract once the current contracts end. It proposes to mentor this worker until they are able to run their own businesses and thereafter appoint them to provide services to it. "The department will target black owned, especially Africans formed companies, to ensure radical economic transformation.

Increased focus will be on targeted youth, women and military veterans in townships and rural areas.

The Department will focus mostly on Cooperatives to empower a group and not the individuals of people," said Kaunda. He added that the designated groups running small enterprises in townships, rural areas or underdeveloped areas will be a key focus.

The procurement targets for the Department are as follows: Women (30%), Youth (35%), People with Disability (5%), Military Veterans (10%) and broadly Africans (60%). "We are, indeed, doing our utmost best to change the status quo," said Kaunda.

For all this to be achieved, the MEC said community safety would be essential, adding that "our police have to serve in a province that is largely rural.

"The department is now planning to empower the workers who are currently providing services through the existing service providers.

KZN pays attention to cross border crime



President Jacob Zuma leading his team from national and provincial government during the campaign against cross border crime. THAMI MKHULISA

Nosipho Nxasane

The Department of Community Safety and Liaison continues to engage all key stakeholders in its campaign to deal with the scourge of border crime.

MEC Mxolisi Kaunda says that UMkhanyakude district, which borders on Mozambique, is highly affected by the scourge of cross border crime where vehicles are hijacked from their owners and taken across the border of Mozambique.

"Following several engagements with the eManguzi community, the Provincial Executive Council tasked me to lead the process to address this challenge. We have engaged all key stakeholders, including amakhosi and the local community.

"A Border Integrity Improvement Plan has also been developed and is being implemented in collaboration with the national sphere of Government. The key elements of the plan are the deployment of 40 crime prevention volunteers to improve detecting

illegal activity, reducing the ability of criminals to move hijacked or stolen vehicles freely across the border through the installation of New Jersey barriers, improving police deployment in the area and improving intergovernmental cooperation, especially between SAPS and the SANDF," said Kaunda. President Jacob Zuma and Premier Willies Mchunu held a crime indaba with the community of uMkhanyakude in March 2017 and they will soon return to the area to provide feedback.

Massive campaign to recover illegal firearms



Some of the illegal firearms that were seized during the police campaign in KwaZulu-Natal.

Sibongiseni Thabethe

A high profile anti-illegal firearms campaign will be launched in the financial year 2017/18 in KwaZulu-Natal and in line with the national initiative, MEC Mxoli Kaunda committed this during his budget presentation at the legislature. This comes in the wake of a number of incidents of crime where the firearms were used in the province last year. Kaunda said that between April and December 2016 police recovered 3 325 firearms, from January to February 2017, a total 717 firearms were recovered in the province. "Equally frightening is that an analysis done in 2016 indicates that of people killed, 35 percent of them were killed using firearms. "This campaign, to be rolled out throughout the province and driven by our district offices, will seek to mobilise communities to contribute towards recovery of illegal firearms, share with them the dangers of having such weapons of murder in circulation. Working with national, we will also look at the issues of amnesty for those returning illegal firearms," he Kaunda.

2016 indicates that of people killed, 35 percent of them were killed using firearms

He further said that crime in KwaZulu-Natal was influenced by multiple factors, such as the legacy of so many conflicts including faction-fights and political violence of the 80's and 90's. "All these left the province flushed with illegal firearms which are now the key drivers of conflict in the province," he added. Kaunda said that his department would also deal with unregulated taverns or shebeens, and has since engaged police management in the province to closely monitor those outlets frequented by violent crime. "Our first targets are those liquor outlets near schools and churches," he concluded.

Traditional leaders are key players in promoting community safety



MEC Moxolisi Kaunda has since engaged with communities of KwaMajozo in Umsinga as part of his drive to ensure that traditional leaders play their role in the fight against crime. ZINGISA HLATHI

We value hugely the role played by the traditional leaders in all efforts to bring about lasting peace in the province.

Sibongiseni Thabethe

In a decisive move to further mobilise various stakeholders in advancing people's power in fighting crime this financial year, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison will be formalising a number of agreements and partnerships with business sector, traditional leaders.

MEC Mxolisi Kaunda says that there is an urgent need to intensify partnerships between government and all community based

structures in the fight against crime.

He was encouraged by the success of the Festive Season Integrated Safety Plans which he says were very effective over the last December/ January holidays. This plan contributed immensely in reducing the levels of crime in the province during the festive season because there was visible policing and people were able to take ownership of their communities from criminals.

"Working with the chambers of commerce, we plan to aggressively fight crime in our provincial economic hubs of Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Richards Bay," said Kaunda.

On traditional leaders, Kaunda said that Amakhosi are key players in ensuring rural safety.

"We value hugely the role played by the traditional leaders in all efforts to bring about lasting peace in the province. They recognise and accept that it is only a stable KwaZulu-Natal that could develop and attract investments.

"I also extend our deepest gratitude to His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini, for his positive contribution to peace in KwaZulu-Natal through his leadership in many peace processes such as in Gauteng and in Durban hostels. "We can now say that, working jointly with the Office the Premier and eThekweni Metro, we are making positive efforts in resolving conflict in Durban hostels. While from time to time, the process faces some challenges; today Glebe and KwaMashu hostels are fairly stable than they were before," said Kaunda.



"Building a united front against crime."