

**BUDGET POLICY SPEECH VOTE -12
FOR THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
VIRTUAL RE-TABLING BY HON MR S.A DUMA (MPL)
AT THE KWAZULU - NATAL LEGISLATURE, PIETERMARITZBURG,
FRIDAY, 25 JULY 2025**

**Madam Speaker; Hon Boyce;
KZN Premier; Hon Ntuli;
Members of the Executive Council;
Honourable members of the Legislature;
Head of Department;**

We are re-tabling this budget as we finished our first year in office within the seventh administration. In our first year in office our goal has been to drive mass job creation and massively roll out service delivery.

We have criss-crossed the province interacting with various stakeholders, Amakhosi including His Majesty Indlulamithi Misuzulu kaZwelithini in our quest to reposition the department. We appreciate the warm reception shown by the people of this province during our interactions.

Madam Speaker we are also saddened to add that in our first year in office we have lost several lives on our roads due to road accidents.

I take this opportunity to once again extend my deepest condolences to the Ntombela family following the loss of the mother, her daughter, grandchildren and son-in-law who was their driver. Tomorrow we will lay them to rest in KwaMajibha area, Mahlabathini near Ulundi Town.

This morning I received a letter from our Ambassador Ayanda Msweli addressed to me by the South African Farmers Development Association. They have informed me that one of their fleet bakkies was involved in that accident. They have requested to join me during the funeral.

Madam Speaker, our budget allocation for the 2025/26 financial year just over R13 billion will be invested in rolling out our infrastructure, improving public transportation, and refining our law enforcement and road safety campaigns. We will create jobs, help eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and drive socio-economic transformation.

I must just highlighting, honourable chair, that from R13, 5 billion - on a monthly basis we need R1, 1 billion to R1, 2 billion to pay service providers. This applies more especially to contractors who are responsible for the maintenance and construction of over 54 kilometres of road networks.

Unfortunately, because of migration from SCOA V5 to SCOA VA 6 gave us problems because of technical glitches in BAS resulting in delays in the payment of invoices.

Afterwards, we had to accommodate the department of education in terms of clearing outstanding norms and standards payments to schools.

Currently, the department of transport is getting only R800 million from Provincial Treasury. Last month we only received R560 million. This means that our vision of ensuring payment to service providers with 30 days will no longer be possible.

We will continue to engage with Provincial Treasury to consolidate our gains and address this challenge in particular.

By and large, we have internalized the fact we will be blamed for not paying invoices despite having enough budget as the department.

This has affected all government departments and the matter is being managed collectively. We have also briefed the Auditor General.

RECRUITMENT OF TRAFFIC OFFICERS TO IMPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Honourable Members, during this financial year, we will continue strengthening law enforcement to create a safer road environment. We remain firm behind our campaign aimed at ensuring that KwaZulu-Natal becomes a zero-tolerance zone for traffic violators.

Plans are afoot to continue increasing our law enforcement. As a result, we will recruit 200 traffic trainee officers annually over the next five years.

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Madam Speaker, we have allocated over R960 million to programme one to respond to our national and provincial priority of building a capable state. We aim to cultivate a cadre of highly skilled professional public servants who will have the requisite innovation to respond to modern-day challenges. We will achieve this by skilling and capacitating our workforce and reduce the vacancy rate.

We have in this financial year employed 300 graduates under our internship programme at a cost of R30, 1 million.

These young people will improve our internal capacity and help with maintenance of our road network and the rollout of our infrastructural projects.

PROGRAMME 2: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

A total of R9, 2 billion will be spent on transport infrastructure. Over R3, 8 billion will be spent on constructing new infrastructural projects, while over R4, 3 billion will maintain our road network. Over R102 million will be spent on infrastructure planning and design with over R927 million being allocated to support programmes within transport infrastructure.

Part of the major and historic contractor handover conducted in this first year of the seventh administration includes Isandlwana Road Upgrade Project P372 at a cost of over R400 million. The road which will be known as the Isilo Misuzulu kaZwelithini Road leads to the historic battlefields of Isandlwana where the Zulu's defeated the English army.

Honourable members, we have also allocated a budget of over R216 million towards the programme of Black Top Patching in the current financial year.

PROGRAMME 3: TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

This pivotal programme is designed to meticulously plan, regulate and facilitate the provision of integrated land transport services. A substantial allocation of over R2 billion underscores the critical importance of this programme in improving the public transport system in KZN.

PROGRAMME 4: TRANSPORT REGULATION

Programme four aims to ensure a safe transport environment by regulating traffic on public infrastructure, enforcing the law, implementing road safety education and awareness programmes, and registering and licensing vehicles and drivers. **As such, a budget of over R1,3 billion has been allocated to achieving these objectives.**

PROGRAMME 5: COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMMES

Through our Empowerment Programmes, we aim to end poverty and ensure that women and other people from previously disadvantaged groups are able to put bread on the table. At the centre of our programmes we want to ensure that we continue to support poor and unemployed people. Over R52 million has been set aside for empowerment programmes.

There are 51 154 work opportunities planned for 2025/26.

I present Vote 12: Department of Transport for 2025/2026 for consideration of this august house.

I thank you!

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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