

# KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**GROWING  
KWAZULU-NATAL  
TOGETHER**

# BUDGET VOTE

**2024/2025**



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**  
PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





## **BUDGET VOTE 14**

**DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE**



**MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
MR MARTIN MEYER**

**DATE: 15 AUGUST 2024**

Chairperson

Speaker

Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Mayors and Councillors of Local Government

Director General and Heads of Departments

Distinguished Guests

The people of KwaZulu-Natal following us on various media platforms

Members of the media present

Good afternoon,

**Madam Speaker,**

I do not take lightly the opportunity to stand before you in this House. My duties and responsibilities are clear. They are to make Public Works and Infrastructure to work for the people of KwaZulu-Natal, restore hope and trust in the department, implement strategies which will ingrain a culture of professionalizing the public sector, fight fraud and corruption, improve government systems, reduce wasteful expenditure, and reassure the people of our province that KwaZulu-Natal works because of Public Works.

**With that stated, Honourable Members, I am glad to inform you that the tabling of this budget speech cost the taxpayers less than R300, as opposed to the last budget address, which cost the taxpayer more than R228 000.00. The department did not purchase any promotional items, new branding, catering, or goody bags for today's budget speech. ZERO PROCUREMENT. The speech was printed in-house, with no new financial commitments. The characterisation of this budget vote reflects our future aspirations. If it does not benefit the people of KwaZulu-Natal, we do not want it!**





Our mandate and task began immediately when the Honourable Premier appointed me to lead this exciting department.

The important quest and feat to turn KwaZulu-Natal into an infrastructure investment friendly province is in full motion. I am of the firm view that to build KZN better, we need to be agile, nimble and embrace innovation. By doing so, we explore opportunities to create jobs and collaborate with our partners from the private sector.

**Honourable Members**, the people of this province have entrusted us to deliver schools, clinics, hospitals, and other facilities promptly. Our pursuit to rebuild this marvellous province solely lies in our collective efforts and ability to adapt to changing times.

I have had the privilege of interacting with the people of KwaZulu-Natal, and many have expressed a sense of hope, optimism, and inclusivity. Frankly put, residents of KwaZulu-Natal are tired of being divided across racial lines and now simply want to work for their province. They strongly yearn for a government which is open, transparent, and creates opportunities for all. The people of this province want to see their taxes utilized to deliver innovative, long-lasting, and quality infrastructure. This is the message I relayed to the Department's top management.

I reiterate, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure serves at the behest of the people of this province, and a functional Department equates to a functional province. It is solely for this reason that I decided my portrait will not be hung in every office, I'm here to serve the residents of this province.



Secondly, I have instructed top management to do away with niceties and 'nice-to-haves', as such expenditures have no links to service delivery. This is the hope we must thrive for. As a department we have rolled up our sleeves, hit the ground running, and we want to get things done! Again, if it doesn't serve the people of KZN, we won't need it.

Technocrats from the department have committed to strive for the eradication of unnecessary bureaucratic red tapes which delay the delivery of basic infrastructure, and these are signs that we are on the correct path. This is the obligation that I have received from top management since my appointment as the Executive Authority. I'm reminded of a quote by Anne Frank who said, 'How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.'

**Madam Speaker**, a few weeks ago, I made my first keynote address at the Master Builders Association gathering in Durban. I was encouraged by the enormous zealousness from the private sector, and the demonstrated willingness to travel this perilous journey with us. As a department we still maintain it is not going to be easy, nor will it be smooth sailing. But we are dutifully bound to complete the course.

During our engagement with likeminded citizens of our province, we were emphatic that as a department we seek to forge better relations with our key partners in the built environment, both the private and public sector.

As a department we have highlighted key low-hanging fruits which will propel us to improve on service delivery. They are as follows but not limited to:



- We strongly want to revive and better implement the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) initiative. This programme is impeccable but needs us to be steadfast and unwavering in implementing it. Implementing the PPP initiative will enable the department to leverage on private sector efficiencies, innovation, and expertise for public benefit in large projects. Most importantly, this is a powerful tool in the province's ongoing quest to tackle poverty and to grow the economy through infrastructure development. Our collaborative efforts include improving the quality of skills offered by the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), strengthening efforts to combat the construction mafia, creating equitable opportunities in the built environment, and sharing the collective responsibility of repurposing unutilized and derelict government infrastructure.
- The department will restructure and improve the payment system. This includes synchronizing payment mechanisms with sector departments who are our clients. Our goal is to comply with Treasury norms and standards of paying contractors timeously.
- In response to the 2022 floods, which caused widespread devastation in our province, including the destruction of infrastructure, the department is more determined than ever to work closely with the private sector to explore new innovative and modern technologies for infrastructure construction. Rapid climate change necessitates the construction of robust and sustainable structures capable of mitigating the effects of climate change while also promoting environmental sustainability. As a department we are doing away with the phrase of 'This is how things have always been done.' Such phrases are not only tantamount to a primitive mindset but suppressive of innovativeness.



- As a department we seek to reduce the renting of property on behalf of the government. As the custodian of government infrastructure and land, our immediate task is to do away with unnecessary rental expenditure and utilize existing government buildings.
- During my first meeting with the department's top management, we resolved to improve and upskill departmental staff by setting aside resources for Human Resource Development (HRD). This is an integral and crucial component if the department seeks to be effective and competitive.

**Madam Speaker**, these strategies are not an illusion of false hope or pipedreams, but achievable if this Government of Provincial Unity places the interests of the electorate before party and individual interests.

**Members of this House** will agree that our resilience shows best in our darkest and trying situations, and that we can only overcome any adversity if we have a firm confidence in a brighter future. A sluggish economy, a weaker rand, the aftermath of the COVID-19, the 2021 July unrests, the 2022 floods in our province and the June 2024 destructive tornados, are some of the challenges we have had to endure. However, our zeal as a department to carry out the people's mandate of delivering quality infrastructure remains intact.

**Madam Speaker** it is not all calamitous and bleak. It should be noted that the department is now more determined than ever to take up its rightful position of implementing all government infrastructure.



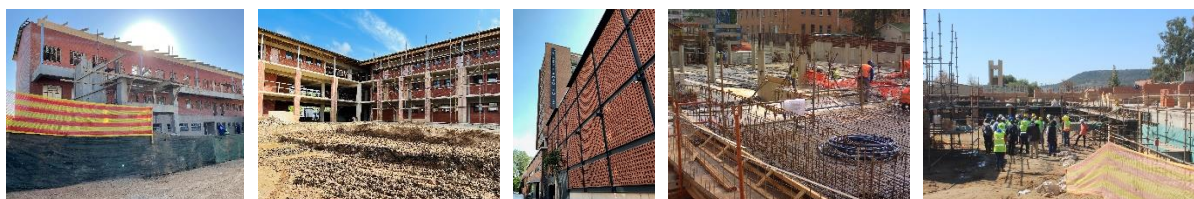
We seek to regain that status, and coincidentally, the department has successfully completed over 10,000 projects in the last 30 years in the province, which includes the construction of government buildings, schools, clinics, hospitals, water and sanitation, maintenance, renovations, and refurbishments of other government facilities for client departments. These developments highlight the role of government in defining the infrastructure environment and how it affects the public's well-being. Moreover, the department oversees the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), which has witnessed over one million individuals benefit from the programme, making it the leading province in terms of EPWP beneficiaries.

It is solely for this reason that the department has themed this year as the year of **'Making the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to Work for the People of KwaZulu-Natal through Innovation and Collaboration.'** We are purposefully gathering new and fresh ideas, whilst encouraging innovation and forging new partnerships with the private sector.

The co-founder of Apple, Steve Jobs once said, "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower." I posed a noble challenge to senior management at the department to shelve old ideas to the confines of history and allow fresh ideas to reign supreme.

**"I-KwaZulu-Natal sizoyakha ngokuzimisela futhi sizosebenzisana sonke"**

**Madam Speaker,** when I joined the department, I first enquired about the standard day-to-day maintenance processes within the department, such as fixing a door in a





school. I was advised that these processes involve assessments, confirmation of funding, inviting competitive bids, awarding contracts, and other lengthy procedures. These prolonged steps must be streamlined.

To address this, I have instructed the management to revive the artisan capacitation and development programme. We will deploy artisans to every district office, whose primary responsibility will be to handle emergency day-to-day maintenance of our buildings efficiently. This initiative aims to significantly reduce response times, costs, and ensure our facilities are maintained in optimal condition.

### **Programme 1: Administration – R439,368 million (24.53%)**

The primary goals of Programme One are to give strategic leadership and comprehensive management. Other roles include assisting the Executive Authority, developing a healthy business culture, aiding and guidance on human resources and legal issues. Communication and effective use of digital infrastructure (ICT) are other key focus areas under this programme.

The Programme also assures the implementation of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, as well as providing strong financial management, risk management, and supply chain management services.

The programme's budget is distributed as follows:

- Compensation of employees: R 334,683 million
- Goods & services: R 93,576 million
- Transfers & subsidies: R 6,508 million
- Payment for Capital Assets: R 4,601 million



## Fostering Innovation, Competitiveness and Qualified Workforce

The competency and success of this approach will depend on staff members who will skilfully and inventively provide service delivery to the people of KwaZulu-Natal. This is critical for the successful working of the government machinery and the development of a capable workforce. Competent and proficient employees can expeditiously execute their duties effectively, ensuring that service delivery is dispensed on schedule and professionally. This is as we aim to revive the tarnished image of the department which has been characterised by unresponsiveness and delays. The image of our departmental technocrats has also been marred by a lack of empathy and moving at a snail's pace when executing tasks. A turnaround strategy is underway!

We are strengthening our departmental machinery and staff complement by thoroughly scrutinising our selection criteria of new staff. We want to ensure that new recruits are not only capable and diligent, but we seek to attract a workforce which is eager to serve at the pleasure of the people of this province. This aggressive approach is underpinned by our strong desire to attract par excellence and those willing to embrace new technologies.

Members of the House, in the 2023/24 financial year the Department has filled one hundred and sixty-five (165) posts. Thirty-five (35) of these positions are Senior, Middle and Junior Management. Whilst one hundred and thirty (130) are technical and administrative posts.



Currently the Human Resource Provisioning Plan (HRPP) contains forty-four (44) vacancies. Twenty-six (26) of the vacant posts are in the process of shortlisting and interviews.

### **Clean and Transparent Governance**

**Madam Speaker**, the department openly applauds and commends the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for taking the bold stance of unearthing looting at a colossal scale from state coffers, where hackers stole R300 million from the department over 10 years. We seek to emulate such a bold posture without fear or favour.

During our upcoming MinMEC, the department will robustly engage with our national counterpart and share lessons on how the department can prevent being a soft target from these cybercriminal syndicates. It is also for this reason that the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) unit will be allocated funds to swiftly tighten cybersecurity measures, in a bid to deter any attempts from cyber-attacks.

We are more determined and deliberate in our approach and attempts to run a clean, transparent, and a fair department. We want to be unapologetically clear that fraud and corruption will not have a footprint within the corridors of the department, and we will work closely with the Auditor General's office to discover accounting anomalies expeditiously.

**Madam Speaker**, the department will fully implement and endorse the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. We exert ourselves to support citizen empowerment in the fight against the scourge of corruption, including support and protection for whistle-blowers,



develop sustainable partnerships with stakeholders to reduce corruption by improving integrity management, improve transparency within the department, improve the integrity of the department's procurement system to ensure fairness and efficient use of the department's resources, improve adherence to integrity management and improve consequence management for non-compliance, strengthen oversight and build specific programmes to reduce corruption and improve integrity in departmental units vulnerable to corruption such as Supply Chain Management (SCM).

**Madam Speaker**, it is undoubtably without a blemish that the department has displayed promising signs of turning the tide, whilst restoring the infrastructural fortunes of the province. The department's Unqualified Audit Outcome with few audit findings gives credence to our ambition of establishing a coherent institution. We are indeed working towards a clean audit outcome in this current financial year.

### Youth and Skills Development

The department is cognizant of its role in developing skilled young people in the built environment. The staggering number of young unemployed promising students has prompted the department to award an additional thirty-four (34) young promising students pursuing degrees in built environment studies. Furthermore, the department has placed forty-nine (49) interns with built environment qualifications.

### Inter-Departmental Accounts

**Honourable Members**, particularly Members of the Executive Authority, it is essential and imperative for the department to declare that we have noted a continuous decrease in the settlement of Inter-Departmental Accounts by our client departments.





Last fiscal year, we asserted an improvement, but there has been a severe regress by several departments that must fulfil payment obligations. We once again request that client departments heed this clarion call so that we can continue to provide our services for the benefit of our province. The department is collaborating with Provincial Treasury to engage departments to develop recovery strategies.

## **PROGRAMME 2: Public Works Infrastructure – R1 306,262 billion (72.92%)**

**Honourable Chairperson,** The main purpose of Programme 2 is to provide and facilitate the provision of accommodation and integrated property management services to clients through planned property life cycle (acquisition, management, maintenance and disposal), optimal utilisation of immovable assets, land valuation, maintenance of the Fixed Asset Register project, payment of property rates and integrated service delivery and includes the GIAMA – Condition Assessments budget, improving integrated service delivery in the provision of buildings and structures, creating an enabling environment for affirmable business enterprises and initiating, co-ordinating strategic partnerships and co-ordinating and aligning operational activities in line with municipal demarcations. Programme 2 also includes the leasing of buildings for the department.

The programme's budget is distributed as follows:

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| ● Compensation of employees:  | R 378,139 million |
| ● Goods & services:           | R 148,971 million |
| ● Transfers & subsidies:      | R 763,584 million |
| ● Payment for Capital Assets: | R 15,568 million  |



My organisation, the Democratic Alliance, is a firm believer that development and improvement of infrastructure in our province should be attained through collaboration with the private sector. The investment in infrastructure means, we must have mechanisms in place to protect our institutions, buildings, and facilities. As a department, our multipronged strategies in the development of quality infrastructure involve, embracing new technologies, hiring individuals with the suitable technical skills set, fostering a culture of accountability and transparency, constantly reskilling our technocrats, and ingraining a mindset of ethical leadership.

I am encouraged by the active participation and buy-in from residents in the province and the Unity Government, which embraces new impulses and fresh impetus.

**Honourable Members**, we often forget that being in leadership does not only mean leading during good times or taking a popular view.

That is why the department will challenge the status quo and explore new ways of delivering infrastructure at a fraction of the time. I am reminded of Bill Taylor who reminds us that the true mark of a leader is the willingness to stick with a bold course of action — an unconventional strategy, a unique product-development roadmap, a controversial marketing campaign — even as the rest of the world wonders why you're not marching in step with the status quo. In other words, real leaders are happy to zig while others zag. They understand that in an era of hyper-competition and non-stop disruption, the only way to stand out from the crowd is to stand for something special.

**Honourable Members**, to optimize the delivery of infrastructure at a rapid and efficient pace, the department will alter its turnaround timeframes for significant projects. These newly amended time periods will allow us to assess where we need to improve while regaining the confidence of client departments.



In the 6th Administration, the department has completed a total of **1, 424 capital projects** across the province, amounting to **R6, 268 billion**. Our goal is to increase that figure, bearing in mind that our goal is to reduce the completion of projects at a fraction of the stipulated time.

**Members of the House**, the Department commits to the following service delivery priorities and infrastructure projects for the 2024/25 financial year:

- Mosvold Hospital: Construction of 40 units blocks for staff accommodation and pediatric unit with a budget of R200 Million, located at uMkhanyakude District.
- King Dinuzulu Hospital: New TB Complex with a budget of R187 Million, located at eThekweni Metro.
- Ngwelezane Hospital: Construction of new orthotics and prosthetics centre with a budget of R63 Million, located at King Cetshwayo District.
- Woodlands Primary School: Construction of New Classroom blocks and Admin with a budget of R 56 million, located at uMgungundlovu District
- Dilanga High School: Upgrade and addition of school with a budget of R 66 million, located at uMkhanyakude District.
- Menzi High School: Upgrades and additions with a budget of R 44 million, located at eThekweni Metro.
- Mahlabathini Primary School: Upgrade and additions to Classroom Block with a budget of R78 Million, located at Zululand District
- Construction of New Nongoma RTI Offices with a budget of R98 Million, located at Zululand District
- Construction of New Paulpietersburg Agricultural Offices with a budget of R42 Million, located at Zululand District

Under the Department of Health Portfolio, we have successfully completed the following capital projects to mention a few:



- Osindisweni Hospital – Construction of the new decentralized MDR unit in eThekweni Metropolitan at R162 668 059,07 project value
- Catherine Booth Hospital (Upgrade the existing TB Wards) in King Cetshwayo District Municipality at R97 million.
- Newcastle Hospital – Installation of perimeter fence in Amajuba District at R 33 million.

Under the Department of Education Portfolio, we have successfully completed the following projects, to mention a few:

- Inanda School for Learners with Special Educational Needs in eThekweni Municipality at R218 920 959 million was completed.
- JG Zuma High School in eThekweni Municipality at R 96 435 726 million was completed.
- Xoloxolo Senior Primary School in Harry Gwala District Municipality at a value of R69 239 231 was also completed.
- Dundee Junior Secondary School under uMzinyathi District amounting to R 60 million.

Under the Various Clients Portfolio, we have completed the following projects to mention a few:

- Conversion of Government Garage to Office Accommodation under the Department of Social Development located at eThekweni Metro – Project Value of R124 019 244.
- UMzimkhulu Local Office was completed under Department of Agriculture located at Harry Gwala District – Project Value of R41 908 415.
- Under the Programme for Refurbishment of Traditional Authority Centres and Imizi Yezizwe across the Province, 52 TAC's and 31 Imizi Yezizwe have been completed which amounted to R60 million.





- ILembe District Office for KZN DPWI has also been completed to the amount of R 64 million.

**Madam Speaker**, for resolving water shortages and ensuring the provision of safe water for consumption, 49 steel water tanks have been erected, along with **1 028 boreholes** in various schools, clinics, and other government institutions.

**242 sanitation projects have been completed in various schools**, working with the Department of Education to improve and provide decent and better sanitation in schools.

In ensuring uninterrupted services particularly to health facilities as well as various facilities, a total of **216 generators** have been installed and commissioned for backup energy power amounting to over R114 million.

To date **203** facilities comprising of schools, clinics and other government facilities have been refurbished as part of the Storm Damage Programme to the value of **R342 million**.

**141 government facilities totalling to R245 million** have been eradicated of asbestos across the province.

Safety has been improved in schools, clinics and other government facilities including the Royal Households which total to 239 facilities under the Fencing Programme amounting to R167 million.

**Madam Speaker and people of KwaZulu-Natal**, currently, a total of **204** infrastructure projects are at construction stages which amount to **R2,6 billion** across all districts.



These projects are expected to have a yield of over ten thousand (10 000) job opportunities, and immensely contribute to local economies directly and indirectly. The Department fully supports efforts to revitalize local economies and has made it a prerogative to persuade contractors to source building material from local suppliers.

**Madam Speaker and Honourable Members**, we wish to emphasize that the department is under strenuous difficulties on infrastructure allocation owing to budget cuts. Consequently, several projects will be affected in the current fiscal year. Whilst understanding financial competing interests which the Provincial Treasury is confronted with, we also urge the Provincial Treasury to take stock of our financial plight.

### **Provincial Government Precinct**

The Department has been tasked with coordination, designing and construction via a Public-Private Partnership process for the government precinct which will provide benefit by centralizing government services, fostering civic identity, and promoting efficiency in government operations. A Project Steering Committee and Technical Committee has been created. A PPP project requires the appointment of a Transactional Advisor (TA) as part of the implementation process. Funding for the appointment of the TA has been granted by Treasury and a Transactional Advisor has been appointed. The TA is reviewing the feasibility study and cost estimates to understand how the needs of the Precinct and Legislature projects have been progressing since 2015. This department remains committed to this Precinct in Pietermaritzburg.



## Strategic Infrastructure Development Agency (SIDA)

The KwaZulu-Natal Unity Government is committed to addressing the infrastructure backlogs and securing the necessary funding to meet the ambitious goal of investing over R200 billion in infrastructure over the next seven years. This investment aligns with the priorities outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the New Growth Path (NGP), specifically aiming to support the social, economic, and development needs of the province as articulated in Strategic Goal 4 of the KZN Provincial Growth and Development Plan 2035.

To achieve these objectives, the department is at an advanced stage in establishing the SIDA. This initiative follows the directive of the Provincial Executive Committee and draws on international benchmarking exercises, which highlight that successful infrastructure delivery model integrate planning, design, budgeting, execution, maintenance, and decommissioning activities. Adopting a full asset life-cycle approach is crucial for the sustainable delivery of infrastructure.

The reconfiguration of DPW into DPW&I supports the creation of SIDA, which will initially function as a Programme Management Office (PMO) within the department. The PMO will serve as the foundation for SIDA, providing the necessary autonomy and flexibility to innovate, collaborate with industry stakeholders, and implement measures that attract private sector participation.

This collaborative approach aims to leverage private sector finance, going beyond the provision of services to foster substantial private sector investment in the infrastructure programme.



By integrating these strategies, the department aims to expedite infrastructure development, ensure efficient use of resources, and achieve the broader economic growth and development goals set for the province. This proactive approach underscores the government's commitment to creating a robust infrastructure framework that supports sustainable development and improves the quality of life for all residents in KwaZulu-Natal.

### **Immovable Asset Register**

**Honourable Members,** the department manages Provincial immovable assets with an estimated value of R20, 5 billion.

The department continues to maintain accuracy and completeness of the Provincial Immovable Asset Register (IAR) in line with National Treasury minimum requirements. IAR is continuously reconciled with various datasets from other institutions, such as Deeds Office, Office of the Surveyor-General, and Municipal Board, to achieve data integrity.

### **Property Rates**

The department, as the custodian of all provincial government properties is responsible for payment of property rates that are levied on state owned immovable assets by the local municipalities.

The department once again finds itself in a precarious position as it did in the previous financial years. The department's commitment to pay for property rates is hampered by the provision of insufficient funds for property rates.





The department's budget was reduced by R22.057 million in 2023/24, R8.920 million in 2024/25 and R15.701 million in 2025/26, and the department effected this cut entirely against municipal property rates under the Immovable Asset Management sub-programme. This relates to the 2023/24 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget cuts implemented in respect of the PES data update and own revenue reductions. Various strategies are being evaluated, including the sale and leasing of vacant and underutilized state properties, to mitigate the property rates bill. We seek support from stakeholders such as the Department of Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs and municipalities to help manage and reduce these costs effectively.

Unless a drastic and fundamental financial strategy is implemented, nonpayment of outstanding rates debt will continue to cause several municipalities to levy interest on outstanding accounts as well as disconnect services, which has a detrimental influence on service delivery in the province.

To assuage and reduce the department's financial pressures Honourable Members, we therefore make an urgent request to Provincial Treasury to consider revising the department's budget. The department's inability and failure to meet its payment commitments of rates to municipalities, does not only jeopardize relations but results in accumulation of interest.

### **Maintenance of State Buildings**

The department is cognizant that the funding for enhanced upkeep of state structures is insufficient. To this aim, the department is collaborating closely with the Provincial Treasury to seek alternative approaches to this difficult task. The Department is in the process of identifying buildings for refurbishment through Public Private Partnership (PPP). It must be noted that this is a lengthy process, however the plan is already in motion to realise this soon.



The department is currently devising strategies of divesting and offloading its building assets which include unutilized and hijacked buildings. This financial year the department will forge ahead with plans to ensure that buildings are either utilised for economic development and revenue generation for the province or offloaded in the form of sale including entering long term leases. The upkeep of the buildings is not only costing the department but remain an eye sore sight. **If a building or land does not serve the people of KZN, we do not need it.**

Our proposed strategies include but not limited to:

- Letting of prime sites and vacant land to the private sector for revenue generation
- Re-purposing of some of the immovable assets using the Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach
- Repurposing to student accommodation for institutions of higher learning
- Residential accommodation to some of the local municipalities
- Remaining committed to a fair process that will benefit disadvantaged communities.

**Madam Speaker**, the department will undertake a fact-finding mission to the Western Cape Province and other best performing provinces, to assess ideas for adaptive reuse of dilapidated and abandoned structures. Our fact-finding expedition will include techniques for effectively converting the buildings into commercially viable enterprises while producing revenue for the department. To achieve this objective, the department will rely on the full endorsement of cabinet, and support from municipalities.

Before embarking on this daring exercise, the department will conduct a detailed conditional assessment to aid in determining the status of its facilities, which will be used in future planning. This allows for timely preventative maintenance rather than expensive repair.



The annual facility assessments would aid the department in maintaining the completeness of the asset register. This is consistent with the terms of the Government Immovable Asset Management Act (Act 19 of 2007).

### **PROGRAMME 3: Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) - R45.916 million (25.70%)**

The main purpose of this programme is to coordinate the overall provincial Expanded Public Works Programme, create job opportunities, sustainable livelihoods, and skills development for poor and unemployed people. The primary focus is on labour intensive methods in construction and infrastructure related programmes.

The core services are:

- Improving integrated service delivery in the provision of buildings and structures.
- Creating jobs through the EPWP.
- Creating an enabling environment for affirmable business enterprises.
- Initiating and co-ordinating strategic partnerships.
- Coordinating and aligning operational activities in line with municipal demarcations.

The programme's budget is distributed as follows:

● Compensation of employees:	R	35.396 million
● Goods & services:	R	10,271 million
● Transfers & subsidies:	R	0,049 million
● Payment for Capital Assets:	R	0,200 million



**Honourable Members**, in April this year, the President of the Republic of South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that KwaZulu-Natal had registered the highest number of EPWP beneficiaries in the country. This is a significant milestone taking into consideration the high number of unemployed young people in our province.

KwaZulu-Natal will continue to set a benchmark by creating more opportunities through this programme and reduce unemployment through the involvement of the private sector.

In the **2024/25** financial year the annual target set for Work Opportunities is **148 387** and **57 964** full time equivalents.

**Madam Speaker**, we commit to continue providing technical support to all provincial departments and municipalities to meet the yearly objectives for the fiscal year 2024/25. We further pledge to continue using our supervisory responsibility to ensure that municipalities understand their duties and obligations and enhance reporting. We are sure that we will meet the programme's objectives and overall performance in this fiscal year.

### **Focus on Vulnerable Groups**

The department is committed to empower vulnerable groups in its programmes and interventions. To be able to measure impact on how the department is benefiting vulnerable groups, the department has taken a step to disaggregate the targets with a focus on vulnerable groups.





The department has as per the Annual Performance Plan (APP) planned to spend 30% on designated groups owned enterprises, through set-aside on procurement of goods and services. Within the 30%, the disaggregation should be as follows:

- Women 45%
- Youth 35%
- People with disabilities 10%
- Military Veterans 10%

**Madam Chair**, one notable initiative of this programme is the 20 KwaZulu-Natal learners who made history for being part of the first Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) group of innovative furniture manufacturers in the country under this programme. They eventually graduated after a year of gruelling woodwork and crafting of state-of-the-art furniture.

The initiative was aimed at reducing unemployment, empower historically disadvantaged individuals, and function as an exit plan for EPWP participants who are anticipated to use their newly acquired skills to enter the furniture manufacturing industry. The exit plan aims to ensure that EPWP recipients' livelihoods are sustained after their brief work on EPWP projects.

The over 20 learners who are part of the programme were trained on how to manufacture tables, chairs, and benches. The department has also partnered with the Department of Education where old and broken desks are being refurbished for schools in and around the eThekwin Metro.

The Department of Education and the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs were among the departments that committed to procure furniture from the learners.



As a department we will play our part in further developing ideas to make the Expanded Public Works Programme long term and introduce new fields of employment.

## CONCLUSION

***In conclusion***, I reiterate my sincere gratitude to the people of our province for committing to work with myself together with the staff from the department. We have a unique opportunity of improving this department through strategic partnerships and collaboration with sector departments from other provinces.

I personally and solemnly commit on behalf of the department that we will serve the electorate to the best of our abilities and will not give the citizens of our province a blank cheque. They deserve quality infrastructure, and we will deliver.

A special word of gratitude goes to the Honourable Premier Thami Ntuli for tasking me with the responsibility of leading the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

We are grateful to Executive Authorities from client Departments, and Members of this House for their continuous support. I am adamant that this financial year we will strengthen our ties and work for the better good of the people who elected us.

I thank the Head of Department, Mr SP Majola, senior management, and all categories of staff at head office, districts, and regions for the rejuvenated commitment to propel our province to greater heights as we prepare to make KwaZulu-Natal a construction site.



**Madam Speaker**, it would be grossly erroneous and disingenuous of me not to acknowledge my predecessor, Mr “KK” Nkosi, whom I respect at a personal and professional level. This House will agree that Mr “KK” Nkosi was the epitome of political tolerance and respected everyone’s views. Those are the standards we need to uphold in our society.

Finally, I thank my organization, the Democratic Alliance for trusting me with such a humongous task of forming part of those who represent the Government of Provincial Unity in this August House.

I present for Budget Vote 14 about **R 1,791,546 billion** for consideration and approval by the Honorable Members of this House.

See you all at work.

I thank you.

